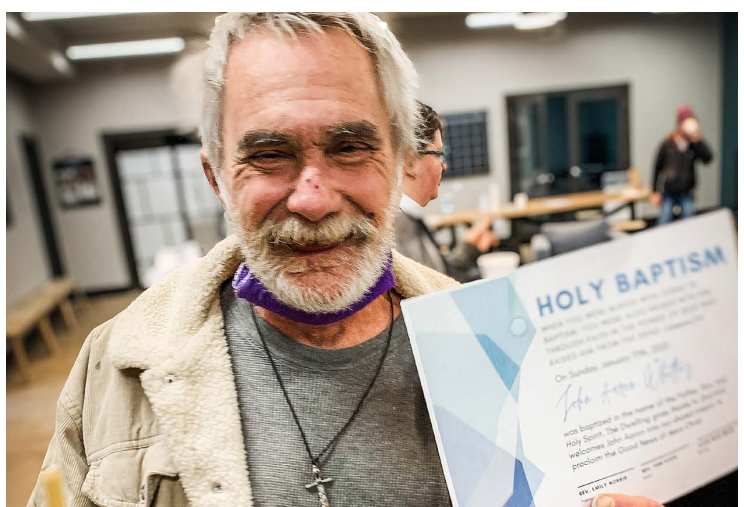


ANNUAL REPORT

2021





A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

Elizabeth A. Eaton

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

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



5300 10th Avenue South • Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

Annual Report for 2021

Annual Congregational Meeting — January 30, 2022

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**Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
January 30, 2022**

Agenda

- I. Call to Order—Mark Lofthus, Council President
- II. Devotions—Pastor Kristen Capel
- III. Establishment of a Quorum
- IV. Approval of Agenda
- V. Secretary’s Report
- VI. President’s Report
- VII. Pastor’s Report
- VIII. Treasurer’s Report
- IX. Mission Teams Reports
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
 - A. Election of 2021-2022 Church Leaders
 - B. 2021 Annual Operating Budget
 - C. Other New Business
- XII. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation
January 31, 2021

The 92nd annual congregational meeting of Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church was held virtually on the Zoom platform as provided for in a continuing resolution passed by the Congregational Council Nov. 11, 2020.

Maren Nelson, serving as Zoom coordinator, welcomed members to the meeting until it began. President Gregg Kelley called meeting of to order at 11:04 a.m. on Sunday, January 31, 2020. Pastor Kristin Capel led a devotion based on Genesis 2:1-2 and the theme of completion.

A quorum exceeding 40 voting members of the congregation was determined to be in attendance. According to the counters Mark Lofthus and Greg Brown, 64 members were in attendance. Approval of meeting agenda: The agenda as printed was reviewed and approved by voice vote, with no changes.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes from the January 26, 2020, annual meeting (printed on pp 3-6 of the Annual Report for 2020) and the minutes of the July special meeting to call Pr. Capel, were reviewed and approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gregg Kelley presented the President's report (see p. 9 of the 2020 Annual Report). Gregg shared images illustrating the challenges NHLC faced throughout the year: pandemic, transition from interim to new pastoral leadership, racial unrest. He reminded us of these blessings:

- Pastor Marla Rotman's service as our interim pastor
- Leadership shown by the call committee (Brian Breed, Laura Bretheim, Johan Christopherson, Stephanie Korchik, Mark Lofthus, Amy Snetting, Kristin Young, Sara Funk)
- Pastor Capel's acceptance of the call to be our lead pastor
- Hiring Pr. Steve Delzer
- The inspiration shown by staff and volunteers in delivering excellent virtual worship—especially Julie Urban's musical leadership and Dana Lonn's dedication in filming and editing.
- Cindy Nelson and Amy Snetting's creativity in engaging children and youth.
- The Generosity committee and the Opening Doors initiative

He further noted that membership increased by 11—a change from the past several years in which membership numbers have remained steady or declined.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Capel submitted the pastor's report (see p. 10 of the 2020 Annual Report). She expressed her thanks to the congregation for making her feel at home despite the challenge of pandemic safety measures. And further thanked:

- Gregg Kelly for his leadership as Council president and dedication to the congregation.
- Pastor Marla for her work that helped make an easy transition and especially for setting up the Care Team.
- The call committee for making it possible for her to share the work with Pastor Delzer.
- For Pastor Delzer's coming out of retirement and his work as a colleague.

- The Generosity Team of Sue Bretheim, Mark Lofthus, Stephanie Korchik, and Gregg Kelly.
- The Council.
- For NHLC's justice work such as the Southside Supply drive—she's looking forward to more engagement in this area.

She is delighted with the excellence of, and continual improvement and engagement in, virtual worship. Special thanks to Julie and Dana.

She noted that, while the Council knew that Cindy Nelson would be retiring from children's ministry in August, it had not been formally announced to the congregation yet, which was an oversight that she corrected in the meeting. She noted a celebration later this year in honor of Cindy's 40+ years of service will be planned.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dana Lonn presented the treasurer's report (see pp. 23-34 of the 2020 Annual Report, including the signed auditors' statement on p. 34). Gregg mentioned that this is Dana's 31st year as NHLC treasurer.

Dana noted that despite the challenges of 2020, NHLC had a great year financially. He drew our attention to the first point on Page 23 that general fund income was more than \$20,000 over planned receipts. He believes that income is the chief indicator of congregational health, and we are a healthy congregation. As in past years, 50% of the giving comes from only a few (11) giving units.

General fund income was \$27,000 over expenses, though expenses were about \$11,000 over plan. None of the additional expense was concerning or unexpected.

The Opening Doors/Capital fund has already received more than \$100,000—\$80,000 of that before the end of 2020.

The treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

OTHER REPORTS

- Reports from the Youth Director, Hospitality, Learning, Outreach, Worship, and Care Mission Teams are included on pp. 11-18 of the Annual Report for 2020.
- Reports from the Endowment Board, Finance Committee, and Property Committee are included on pp. 18-19 of the Annual Report for 2020.
- Other team and special mission reports are included on pp. 20-21 of the Annual Report for 2020.
- Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop's report: p 22 of the Annual Report for 2020.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Election of 2021–2022 Church Leaders

Greg Winter presented the slate of nominees (see below) from the Nominations Committee and thanked the committee members (Greg, Jessica Burmaster, Ann Kersten).

A motion to accept the slate as a white ballot was seconded and the nominations were approved.

Nominating Ballot for 2021-2022 Term

	Be it resolved that the following persons be elected by the congregation of Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church to the positions indicated, with terms beginning in February 2021.				
	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE				
✓	Position	Length of Term	Number of Successive Terms Permitted	Candidate Name	Timeline
	PRESIDENT	1 year	3 terms	Mark Lofthus	2021-2022 is first 1-year term
	VICE PRESIDENT	1 year	3 terms	Sara Funk	2021-2022 is first 1-year term
	SECRETARY	1 year	3 terms	Laura Morris	2021-2022 is first 1-year term
	TREASURER	1 year	no limit	Dana Lonn	ongoing
	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES				
	Position	Length of Term	Number of Successive Terms Permitted	Candidate Name	Timeline
	AT LARGE	2 years	2 terms	Erika Olson	2021-2022 is first year of first term
	AT LARGE	2 years	2 terms	Greg Brown	NO ELECTION NEEDED. 2021-2022 is second year of second term
	ENDOWMENT BOARD				
	Position	Length of Term	Number of Successive Terms Permitted	Candidate Name	Timeline
	COMMITTEE MEMBER	3 years	2 terms	Annika Ewing	NO ELECTION NEEDED. 2021-2022 is second year of first term
	COMMITTEE MEMBER	3 years	2 terms	Jeremy Phillips	NO ELECTION NEEDED. 2021-2022 is second year of first term
	COMMITTEE MEMBER	3 years	2 terms	Libby Bottom	NO ELECTION NEEDED. 2021-2022 is second year of first term
	COMMITTEE MEMBER	3 years	2 terms	Jen Breed	NO ELECTION NEEDED. 2021-2022 is second year of first term
	COMMITTEE MEMBER	3 years	2 terms	Jon Larsen	NO ELECTION NEEDED. 2021-2022 will be third year of second term
	COMMITTEE MEMBER	3 years	2 terms	Tom O'Mara	NO ELECTION NEEDED. 2021-2022 will be third year of second term
	NOMINATING COMMITTEE				
	Position	Length of Term	Number of Successive Terms Permitted	Candidate Name	Timeline
	COMMITTEE MEMBER	1 year	1 year	Laura Bretheim	Single term position
	COMMITTEE MEMBER	1 year	1 year	Chuck Ehlers	Single term position
	COMMITTEE MEMBER	1 year	1 year	Marti Priest	Single term position

2021 Annual Operating Budget

Dana Lonn presented the operating budget proposed for 2021. He brought our attention to the assumptions highlighted at the top of p. 37 of the 2020 Annual Report.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the congregation of Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church approve the 2021 budget as recommended by the Congregational Council and printed on pp. 37-39 of the 2020 Annual Report.

Motion for the NHLC Congregational Council to Authorize Expenditure of Funds

The wording of the motion is revised from that shown on p. 2 of the 2020 Annual Report.

The Nokomis Heights Congregational Council makes a motion that the Congregation authorize the Council to spend up to \$220,000 for the following capital expenditures:

- Renovating the Nokomis Heights kitchen to support our hospitality mission, including weekly meal preparation in partnership with Loaves & Fishes. Kitchen upgrades will ensure health and safety for volunteers and guests.
- Addressing deferred maintenance, repairs, and replacement costs for Nokomis Heights' 57-year-old pipe organ. Our revitalized organ will be a strong presence in both virtual and in-person worship.
- Investing in equipment that supports high-quality online worship even after we begin to gather again as a church. Going forward we will continue to make worship accessible beyond in-person gatherings.

Expenditure of funds above the approved \$220,000 will require additional approval by the Congregation.

After brief discussion of what will be involved in the kitchen remodel, the motion passed.

Thanks

Mark Lofthus, as incoming president of the Congregational Council, thanked departing Council members Gregg Kelley, Maren Nelson, and Jan Myers for their service to the congregation.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Pastor Capel closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Myers, Secretary, NHLC Congregation Council

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Congregation October 10, 2021

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at approximately 11 a.m. after Sunday worship on the church lawn. Notice of the meeting was sent out to members via email and U.S. Mail in advance.

Purpose of the meeting: The meeting was called with the purpose to authorize additional Opening Doors campaign spending, utilizing money committed to the campaign.

Quorum: 45 member signatures of those present were collected, satisfying the minimum requirement of 40 for a quorum.

Business: MOTION made by Dave Engelsgaard, seconded by Wayne Hanson, to authorize expenditures of up to \$280,000 toward the purposes of the Opening Doors campaign, specifically the kitchen renovation, the organ, and a new boiler. A short discussion time with questions and clarifying answers took place. The Motion was approved.

The meeting was **Adjourned**.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Morris, Secretary NHLC Congregation Council

**Nokomis Heights Membership and Ministerial Activity—
Statistical Report
January – December 2021**

	Membership	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership as of December 31, 2020		533	387
Members Received during 2021			
By Infant Baptism		5	–
By Adult Baptism		–	–
By Affirmation of Faith		1	1
By Transfer In / New Members		33	25
Total Received:		39	25
Confirmed youth		–	–
Members Removed during 2021			
By Death		3	3
By Transfer Out / Removed from Roster		7	6
Released per own request		–	–
Total Removed:		10	9
Membership as of December 31, 2021		562	403

Ministerial Acts in 2021 (may include non-members)

Baptisms (5) Cooper Dumke, Esther Prichard, Lucia Snetting, Arlo Taft, Rosalyn Winter
 Weddings (1) Peter Winzig/Gloria Park
 Funerals (3) Richard Feig, Cyrus Kingsberg, Lorraine Westley

Attendance in 2019, 2020, and 2021

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020*</u>	<u>2021**</u>
Total Sunday Worship Attendance*	3759	749	2142
Average Sunday Worship Attendance	73	75	72
Total Easter Attendance	151	n/a	n/a
Total Christmas Eve Attendance	186	n/a	182
Christmas Day Attendance	55	n/a	n/a

*Note: In 2020, Sunday attendance was only counted through March 8, after which in-person worship was curtailed. Average Sunday worship is based on 10 worship services.

** In 2021, Sunday attendance was based on in-person attendance, which began again in June (30 Sundays).

Analytics for our online worship services are available, but complicated. In 2021, we had 114 subscribers to our YouTube channel, with 4,603 channel views, for a total of 1300 hours. The average viewing time was 17 minutes, 5 seconds. From January through May we had between 35 and 68 viewers (individuals/households) watching our premiere each Sunday on YouTube during the 10 o'clock hour. After the return to in-person worship in June, viewership on the premiere dropped to between 15 and 30 individuals/households. Additional viewers watch at other times, and some watch on Facebook.



Congregational President's Report for 2021

This is an easy and enjoyable report for me to write in my first year as Council President.

In recent years, pundits have lamented what they describe as the inevitable decline of the “traditional Protestant church.” Is there a future, some have wondered, for a church like ours?

The last couple years at Nokomis Heights have answered that clearly: YES!

Nokomis Heights astounds me every day. Pastor Kris’ report in these pages, and reports from specific committees, do a great job explaining our exciting innovations, outcomes, and evolutions.

Allow me to summarize a few themes that illustrate why we have strong hope and for a great future:

- Opening our hearts and financial support to new investments—not for the sake of having a nicer building or more staff, but to strengthen continuing ministries and grow new and stronger ones.
- Welcoming 34 new members into our Nokomis Heights family this fall is very visible evidence that we are bringing God’s message to a world that is thirsty for it. Welcome, new members!
- Achieving a long-hoped-for goal of giving 10% of our operating income outside the congregation—and doing it with nominations and voting by our members.
- Maintaining our previous outreach ministries while adding tremendous new services and projects that manifest Christ’s call to action.
- Illustrating with vibrant worship (both in-person and online) and robust activities in and around Nokomis Heights that we really can be “the neighborhood’s church.”

How to thank and recognize everyone who has made these things, and more, happen?

My thanks first of all to Lead Pastor Kristen Capel, and Pastor of Community Care Steve Delzer. How they bless us every day! I join with Pastor Kris in expressing gratitude for the staff who make the church run, and run well, year-round: Cindy Nelson and Joyce Suek in the office; Amy Snetting, youth ministries director; Julie Urban, organist and music leader; Holly Welch, communications specialist; Blanca Raniolo, children’s ministry director; Sara Birkeland, children’s ministry and music; and Dana Lonn (not officially staff but always there for us), treasurer and financial manager, and video production for online worship.



Thanks, of course, to all of you, our Nokomis Heights members.

You are tremendous and make our church special. To keep growing our member engagement and impact, I ask this of all our members: In 2022, decide to do at least one new thing at Nokomis Heights.

It doesn’t matter what you decide: volunteer to be an usher; sit in on an Adult Forum for the first time; volunteer to mow the lawn one week this summer; agree to read the lessons one Sunday a year; get your teenager to a youth service event; use your skills to help maintain our property; invite a neighbor to church; pitch in on Loaves and Fishes meal prep, serving, or clean-up; help light votive candles on Christmas Eve; say yes if someone asks you to serve on a committee or to plan an event; make sure your kid shows up at Sunday school more often; regularly review the many choices highlighted in our excellent weekly newsletter; or suggest something new that we should be doing.

Your engagement will make sure Nokomis Heights is a beacon of God’s truth in the neighborhood for many more decades. Thank you all for creating and re-creating our great congregational community.

Mark Lofthus, Council President



Pastor's Annual Report for 2021

This fall I had the opportunity to take several yoga classes with Elisabeth Pletcher. One of the things I learned from Elisabeth is that no matter the challenge of any given yoga position, if I take enough deep breaths, my body is likely to adapt. And if my body doesn't adapt, I can simply move into another position. It's really that simple. If the position you are in doesn't feel good or isn't working, Elisabeth repeated to me over and over, change your position. Do what is best for your body.

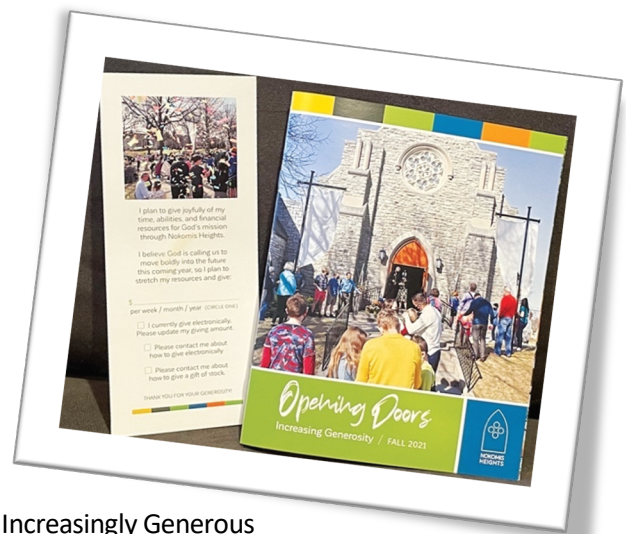
It turns out the same is true when it comes to leading a church through a global pandemic. Take a few deep breaths (inside your mask, of course), say a lot of prayers, wait and see what happens next, and if what you are doing isn't going to work, simply change positions. Do what is best for the Body of Christ.

Nokomis Heights became adept at changing positions in 2021. In 2020, we switched from in-person to online worship, learning how to be more flexible and change positions when needed. In 2021, we changed positions so many times I almost lost count. We transitioned from worshiping fully online, to outside worship on the corner of 53rd and 10th, to Pearl Park, and back again. We purchased heaters for when it got a little too chilly outside, and finally moved inside when the chill got to be too much even for our hearty Minnesota blood. We worshiped with guitars, congas, and portable keyboards in a city park, and we worshiped inside our building with a newly-refurbished organ raising the rafters. Halfway through the summer we realized we had many native Spanish-speaking visitors, so we quickly began translating worship and printing bulletins in English and Spanish. Many of us continued to worship online, thanks to Dana's generosity and extra time put in by many of our volunteers and staff members.

In 2021, we have stretched and strengthened muscles we didn't even know we had.

And guess what? In all the stretching, strengthening, praying, breathing, and changing, God has shown up. It has always been our goal to make decisions that keep our community safe and healthy, while stretching ourselves to continue to be about God's mission of love for all people and hope for a world in need. God's call on Nokomis Heights during this season seems to be a call of both significant change and significant growth. Here are just a few highlights of the ways in which God has shown up in and through our community in 2021:

- Successful completion of the Capital Appeal, "Opening Doors"
- Celebration of the repair and renovation of our church organ, along with a celebration of Julie Urban's 30 years of faithful music leadership
- Partnership with Kelly Chatman and the Center for Leadership and Neighborhood Engagement
- Partnering with the Bilingual Learning Center to provide before and after school education, and summer camps to kids in the neighborhood
- Formation of a Racial Justice Team
- Identifying our Core Values: Centered in Jesus, Collaborative, Creative, Radically Inclusive, and Increasingly Generous
- Welcoming 34 new members!!!
- Partnering with New Creations COGIC Food Shelf
- Completing a renovation of our kitchen that will allow us to partner with Loaves and Fishes in 2022 and beyond



- Celebrating Cindy Nelson’s 40 years as our creative and energetic Children’s Ministry Director;
- Hiring Holly Welch as our Communications Coordinator, bringing creativity, artistry, and thoughtfulness to the way we communicate God’s message to the world
- Hiring Blanca Raniolo, who brings expansive love and vibrant outreach to our Children’s Ministry
- Hiring Sara Birkeland, who brings expertise and excellence in both Children’s and Music Ministry
- Opening doors to increasing generosity by tithing 10% of our annual mission budget
- Continuing to faithfully support CES, Meals on Wheels, Our Saviour’s Shelter, and Habitat for Humanity.



It continues to be my honor and joy to lead the excellent Nokomis Heights staff. Pastor Steve, Joyce, Cindy, Holly, Amy, Julie, Sara, and our honorary staff member, Dana, each bring their full energy, faithfulness, compassion, and grace to our work together. I could not ask for better people to walk alongside on this journey.

A special thank you to our Church Council, whose bold decision making has helped lead us through this time of change and growth. It takes visionary leaders who are willing to take risks to lead a church through times like our present reality. I have found our leadership team to be thoughtful, faithful, engaged, and bold. I am grateful.

As we look toward 2022 together, the one thing we have learned during this season of pandemic, is that we cannot predict the future. What we do know, is that we worship a faithful God, who will lead us, step by step, into a future filled with hope and promise.

Let’s continue to boldly share this Gospel of radical love and inclusion. Let’s continue to breathe, stretch, change positions when needed, and be curious about what God is up to in our neighborhood and our world. And let’s continue to boldly follow wherever God leads us.

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Kristen Capel





Youth Director's Report for 2021

In lots of ways, 2021 felt like a rinse and repeat of 2020. Once again, the rollercoaster ride of COVID challenged us to “do church” in nontraditional ways, and that meant creatively engaging the youth in the life of the church. From outdoor activities to new service opportunities, the 19 youth group members rose to the occasion.

The year started out with the resuming of Sunday Confirmation classes. We continued to watch films rooted in Social Justice as well and have fruitful conversations about the movies. A few of these movies included *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* and *Invictus*. For many of the participants, these movies were their first introduction to worldly issues such as apartheid and the lack of schooling for all children.

From March through mid-June, Annika Coyle served as the Interim Director of Youth Ministry while I was on maternity leave. During this time, the youth participated in an outdoor hot cocoa social, continued to watch movies pertinent to their lives and continued with their weekly confirmation lessons.

In July, with COVID safety protocols in place, three NHLC youth spent a week at Camp Wapo outside Amery, Wisconsin. For the whole summer of 2020, because of the pandemic, Wapo was not able to have campers on site. It was good to be back!

Because of the uncertainty of COVID, we didn't take any youth trips for the second summer in a row. This was disappointing for us all, but the lack of trips provided us opportunities to explore new ways to serve our community. Since July, we have volunteered once a month at the Mother Jeanette Food Shelf located at New Creations Ministries. This food shelf is unique as it provides the youth with a safe space to practice taking initiative and ownership over tasks that directly help their communities. During any given shift, the youth can float between helping prepare the outdoor shopping area, hauling produce, breaking down boxes, walking carts to peoples' cars, cleaning the facility, and other odds and ends. This church, located 2 blocks away from Nokomis Heights, has secured a spot in my heart and I would venture to say it has also wiggled its way into the hearts of the youth that serve there.

In addition to New Creations Ministries, many of our youth helped pack and deliver



groceries at the Hiawatha Towers through Community Emergency Service. For many of our youth, this was the first time they have actively participated in our CES partnership. As you may know, the Hiawatha Towers are primarily populated by our Somalian and East African brothers and sisters, many who are non-English speaking. To my delight, the language barrier didn't for one moment hinder the love and joy oozing out of our teens. The smiles and gentle actions by our youth overcame the language barrier.

Through a series of well-attended parent engagement meetings this summer, I learned of a desire for parents to connect with each other on a more frequent basis, so we have started quarterly parent socials. These get-togethers allow parents to connect and have meaningful conversations about navigating parenting.

The fall brought the start of masked, in-person confirmation lessons, more volunteer opportunities and an outing to Sever's Fall Festival. Twelve 7th-9th grade students registered for confirmation for the 2021-2022 school year. Additionally, four 6th graders occasionally join youth programming, and seven 10th-12th grade students are involved in high school programs.

This fall also brought the start of connecting the youth with the Racial Justice Team. Once a month, our youth representative that serves on the Racial Justice Team shares updates with the full group. We also discuss current events as it relates to Christianity.

In 2022, the youth will be broadening our service opportunities and regularly serving at the Nokomis Heights Loaves and Fishes kitchen. I hope to use these experiences to further our conversations about what it means to do God's work outside of the church walls.

Our youth group is full of kind, compassionate, and caring youth, and I am so proud to lead them on their faith journey. Thank you, Nokomis Heights congregants, for supporting our youth ministry through your generosity with donations, time and talent!

Amy Snetting





Director of Children's Ministry Report for 2021

I am honored and privileged to be part of the Nokomis Heights Team as Director of Children's Ministry. For more than 40 years, Cindy Nelson, our former Children's Minister, dedicated every Sunday morning to teaching our children about Jesus. Thank you, Cindy, for everything you have done! Today, we want to continue leaving footprints for our children and continue to sow love, faith, and hope in each of the hearts of our children.

Despite the pandemic and all the limitations in offering our children Sunday school classes, we had a lot of support from parents and we achieved our goal of restarting Sunday school again in September. A total of 19 children in 2nd-6th grade registered for Sunday school, and around 10 students attended regularly. We also delivered materials to the homes of families that were unable to regularly attend in person.

To celebrate going back to school, we invited parents and families to the park for a blessing of pets and students' backpacks. In addition, we offered art activities for the children. The event was a success and the children really enjoyed it.

When the weather cooperated, we offered "Sidewalk Sunday School"—in-person classes outside the church with guided activities, art projects, and team building to discuss the Bible lessons together. When the weather was inclement and as we moved into winter, Sunday school met inside with masks and social distancing, following our safety guidelines.

In our mixed-age class, children were very motivated and we were able to have group discussions, art activities, movement and music, and snacks. Using a new curriculum, "Simply Loved," we offered videos, visuals, and take-home materials. Students have enjoyed it very much.

On December 19th, our Sunday school children gave the Children's Message during the morning worship service for the last Sunday in Advent. Leading song and prayer, the students enjoyed the rehearsals and the worship experience, and a few students dressed up as angels. We were excited to share a small bit of the Christmas story with the community of Nokomis Heights that day.

Lastly, thank you to Pastors Kris and Steve, our Sunday school families, our weekly volunteer teacher Matt Martell, and Sara Birkeland, who joined our education and music staff this fall.

Blanca Raniolo



Hospitality Mission Team Report for 2020

Hospitality ministry was limited by the pandemic in 2021. Still, we managed to come together as a congregation, in new and different ways.

- **After-church coffee and donuts on the lawn** from June through November (*thanks to Renae Saville-Winter for coordinating and to Joyce Suek for ordering the donuts*)
- **Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom**, after online worship on ZOOM, 2nd & 4th Sundays, February-May
- **Virtual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on ZOOM** (*thanks to Elisabeth Pletcher for coordinating*)
- **All-Congregation Spring Thaw Hangout** on front lawn in March (*thanks to Annika Coyle and Heather and Maisie Magnuson for coordinating*)
- **Virtual Book Baby Shower** for Amy Snetting in March (*thanks to Pastor Kris for coordinating*)
- **Easter Alleluia Launch and Egg hunt** (*thanks to Cindy Nelson, Elisabeth Pletcher, Marian Blattner, and Pastor Kris for coordinating*)
- **Retirement Celebration for Cindy Nelson** (*thanks to Marian Blattner, Celeste Delap, Carolyn Deters, Mark Lofthus, Ruth Murphy, Maren Nelson, Erica Olson, Marti Priest, and Pastor Kris for planning and implementing*)
- **Celebration of the Organ Renovation and Julie Urban's 30th Anniversary** (*thanks to Cindy Nelson and Pastor Kris for coordinating and for Julie Urban playing!*)
- **NHLC Book Club** (*met monthly on 4th Thursday evening, either in person at church or outside, or on ZOOM*)



Learning Mission Team Report for 2020

The Learning Team oversees and plans learning events and activities for all ages, including classes for children and youth and forums and Bible studies for adult faith formation. Thank you to everyone who helped lead learning events and who participated in them.

In 2021, these education opportunities were offered:

Sunday School: From January through May, under the direction of Cindy Nelson, Faith at Home boxes were delivered to 20 Nokomis Heights families with kids age 2 through Grade 6. Each box contained lesson plans, leaflets, and fun items and craft activities to go along with Bible stories from the Narrative Lectionary used in worship. In the fall, in-person Sunday school returned for Kindergarten-Grade 6, with classes meeting outdoors until the weather would not permit it. With the retirement of Cindy Nelson in the fall, Blanca Raniolo and Kim Kokx took over the responsibility of leading the program. Kim's time with us was short-lived, however, when she was offered a full-time principal position at a school in Saint Paul. We were fortunate to hire Sara Birkeland to replace her. *See Director of Children's Ministry report for more details.*

Confirmation and Youth Education: From January through May, confirmation classes, led by Amy Snetting, took place twice monthly on Sundays after online worship via ZOOM. In the fall, confirmation and youth education returned in-person, with confirmation classes taking place 3 Sundays each month and the other Sunday devoted to including all youth in the discussion. *See Youth Director's report for more details.*

Vacation Bible School

In August, pop-up VBS was held under the direction of Cindy Nelson, with assistance from Blanca Raniolo and Kim Kokx. Under the theme "Just Love," about 20 kids and their families came together on the front lawn of the church for a couple of hours of Bible stories, songs, games, and crafts. The afternoon wrapped up with a pizza supper from Fat Lorenzos. This was the last Children's Ministry event for Cindy Nelson.



Theatre Camp for Kids

In July, Stage Right Theatre Productions, under the direction of Kim Kokx, held a week-long performing arts camp for NHLC kids and other kids from the community. After just five days of rehearsal, the musical, *Moana Jr.*, was presented at Nokomis Heights! And in August, Kim and her crew did it again, this time with a production of *Aladdin Jr.* More productions were planned for the school year, but with the departure of Kim Kokx, that was put on hold for the time being.



Family/Intergenerational Events

Even though the pandemic kept us out of the church building for half the year, we still carried out several inter-generational events in 2021: Virtual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in February; Alleluia Launch & Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday; Fall Festival (in conjunction with the Bilingual Learning Center) in October, and Advent Festival of Lights in December.



Sunday Forum

We have been able to continue to offer discussions on a wide variety of topics of interest for adults in the congregation. After the pandemic stopped in-person meetings, Forum moved online to the ZOOM platform.

Online speakers included Maria Cisneros, "Mapping Prejudice/Just Deeds" (1/17); Council & Generosity Team, "Q & A Session on Opening Doors Initiative" (1/24); Blanca Raniolo, "What's the Bilingual Learning Center?" (2/7); Lenten Vocation Series: Cindy Nelson (2/21), Dan Colye (3/7), Autumn Lubin (3/14), Sarah Winter (3/21); Lou Hillier, "Community Solar Gardens" (4/18); Sarah Winter, "Interrogating Whiteness" (4/25 & 5/9); Angela Denker, "Red State Christians" (5/16); Bill Kaemmerer, "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster" (5/23).

In September, we picked up Forum again, this time in-person on the front lawn. Forums in September and October focused on the core values the Church Council adopted in 2021 to help direct our mission as a congregation. Five forums were devoted to these core values, and speakers ranged from Pastor Kris and congregation members and



leaders to Kelly Chatman from the Center for Neighborhood Leadership and Engagement (CNLE):

- Introduction to NHLC Core Values (9/19)
- We Are Centered in Christ (9/26)
- We Are Collaborative (10/3)
- We Are Creative (10/10)
- We Are Radically Inclusive (10/17)
- We Are Increasingly Generous (10/24)

At the end of October, we moved Forum inside, first to the sanctuary and then to Fellowship Hall. Speakers included Marc Olson, “Revolutionary Theology of the Reformation” (10/31); Heather Magnuson, “Africa Classroom Connection” (11/7); Russell Kleckley, “Christian Engagement in the Public Sphere: A Lutheran Perspective” (11/14); Ed Scharlau, “Water to Thrive” (11/21); Marc Olson, “Angels, Part 1 and 2” (12/5 & 12/19); Creation Care Team, “Electric Vehicles” (12/12).

Lifegroups

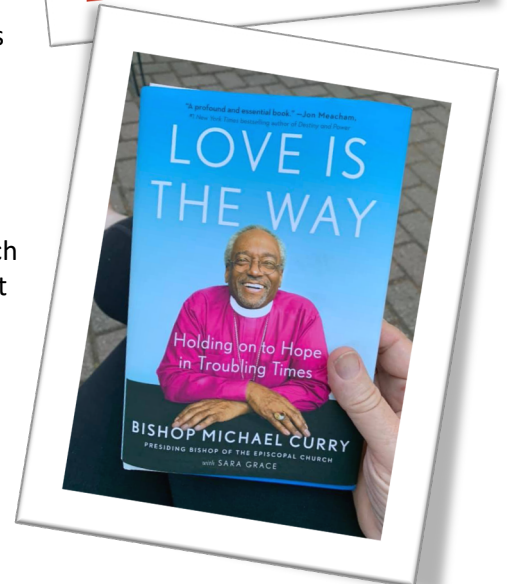
In January, a new small group initiative, called Lifegroups, was launched. Lifegroups were small groups of up to 8 members that met twice a month on ZOOM to discuss scripture, topics of interest, or just check-in with one another and build community during the pandemic. Groups committed to meet for at least a two-month period. Some continued after that.

Summer of Love Book Discussion

In conjunction with our Summer of Love worship series, NHLC members were encouraged to read *Love Is the Way*, by Bishop Michael Curry, and Pastor Kris held three small group discussions on the book outside on the lawn in June, July, and August.

Mental Health Series

In October, in an effort to address some of the mental health needs of the community, in this time of COVID, Nokomis Heights partnered with two neighboring churches—New Creations Church of God in Christ and Diamond Lake Lutheran—to present a 4-part mental health series on the ZOOM platform. Presenters include mental health specialists Dr. Megan Oudekerk, Psy.D., LMFT, RPT-S; Heather Dumke, MS, PA-C, CAQ-Psych; and Dorothee Tshiela, MA, LPCC.



Outreach Mission Team Report for 2020

The Outreach Mission Team works with other teams to plan and implement events and activities that reach out and serve the neighbors in our community and across the world. It is our task to make Christ's love known through word and deed and to welcome others to join us in this mission. In 2021, the following took place:

Outreach to Our Saviour's Housing/Shelter

- **Shelter Meals.** Several teams of NHLC members helped resume serving the evening meals at Our Saviour's Housing/Homeless Shelter in July. We served meals prepared by two local restaurants, alternating between Local Roots and Heather's Cafe for July, August, September, October, and December evening meals. Many thanks to those who helped with this gratifying service.
- **Advent Giving Tree Campaign.** We continued an annual NHLC tradition of an Advent time of collecting and providing gifts to Shelter and Permanent Supported Housing residents. The congregation was very generous with financial contributions, and several "elves" helped shop for the gifts and assembled the 30 gift bags of warm clothes and treats for the residents at Our Saviour's and the gifts for a Permanent Housing resident. A couple of "tomten" (Scandinavian elves) used their sleigh to deliver the gifts to Our Saviour's.

Community Emergency Service

- **4 grocery packing & delivering events** for Community Emergency Service. Thanks to Mark Lofthus for coordinating and thanks to all, including the youth of Nokomis Heights, who volunteered to help.
- **Funds collected for CES** during the March/April Minnesota FoodShare Campaign totaled \$1,770.

New Creations Ministries Food Distribution

A new partnership was formed in 2021 with New Creations Ministries Food Distribution Center, based at New Creations Church of God in Christ at 5144 13th Ave S., Minneapolis, a predominantly Black congregation just a few blocks from Nokomis Heights. Every Monday New Creations has a food giveaway outside their church for anyone who needs it. Several times in 2021, a number of NHLC families and the NHLC youth and Amy Snetting volunteered at the distribution.



Souper Bowl of Caring

This collection on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, is used to fight hunger in our community and around the world. \$425 was collected and donated to Our Saviour's Shelter.

Meals on Wheels

Several times throughout this year, members of the Nokomis Heights community delivered meals for South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels to the elderly, people in medical recovery/transition, and differently-abled, as a service which allows them to remain in their home. In 2021, Nokomis Heights drove a total of 7 weeks, delivering 140 meals, thanks to these NHLC and neighborhood volunteers: Marian Blattner, Pat & Pat Day, Carolyn Deters, Chuck & Kathy Ehlers, Linda Grieme, Lisa Hannon, Avis Jensen, Laura Morris, Janet & Richard Myers, Dick & Toni Pelinka, Christine Petersen, Janelle Saville O'Mara, Joyce Suek, Abdulla Albinali, Peter Danbury, Mike Diko, Kelly Farrish, Gayle Groebner, Lisa Jensen, Terry & Linda Melom, Jenise Rowenkamp, and Kevin Weeden. Special thanks to Rich Myers for coordinating the drivers.

Habitat for Humanity

In spite of the pandemic, NHLC still donated 3 days of work through Nokomis Builds. Thank you to Carolyn Deters and Anne Kersten for coordinating and to all who volunteered time, effort, and donated \$3000.



Building Use

In an effort to be a good neighbor, in 2021 we continued to make our building available to the community for a variety of uses, from music lessons and recitals to yoga and taekwondo. The learning pods of families from Hale school that had begun meeting in our building in the fall of 2020, continued into the new year, and in addition, a partnership was forged with the Bilingual Learning Center (BLC), which had been at Windom School. The BLC now operates out of our building, utilizing the classrooms, Nokomis Room, and Fellowship Hall on the lower level.

Bilingual Learning Center (BLC)

The BLC is a 501(c)3 non-profit enrichment program with before and after school programming for students in PreK through 5th grade. The program works within the city of Minneapolis with public, charter, and private schools. Additionally, the BLC is a fully bilingual program (English-Spanish) designed to foster a welcoming, multicultural, nurturing and fun environment, while promoting cultural experiences, a love for languages, successful academics, and leadership opportunities for kids. Besides offering school year programming for about 30 students, in the summer of 2021, the BLC offered several day camps, M-F from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. Each camp had a different theme in the morning, such as Olympics, Science, Nature, Ocean, and Animal Planet. The camps were offered in Spanish, which allowed students to keep up with their language skills throughout the summer. 35 campers attended, including some kids from Nokomis Heights.



Worship Mission Team Report for 2021

The year 2021 began just the way 2020 had ended, with Nokomis Heights worshipping together virtually—physically distant, yet faithfully together.

From January through May, Nokomis Heights worshipped only online, with videos recorded and edited by Dana Lonn that were posted on YouTube and Facebook, and on the ZOOM platform (midweek Lenten worship).

Beginning in June, we moved to in-person worship outdoors, while continuing to provide online worship for those who were uncomfortable attending in person or who lived outside the area. Throughout the summer we met weekly on the front lawn at church, with one Sunday per month at Pearl Park. Masks were encouraged and coffee and donuts were served after worship. When the temperatures dropped in the fall, 5 propane patio heaters were purchased to keep worshipers warm. On All Saints Sunday, November 7, with masks and COVID protocols in place, we worshipped together in the sanctuary for the first time in nearly 20 months!

In 2021, we produced 56 worship services, including regular Sunday worship, Advent services, Holy Week and Easter, and Christmas. Additional videos were recorded for various announcements, and special events, including Cindy Nelson's Retirement Celebration and the Reformation Organ Celebration & Julie Urban's 30th anniversary. Once during the year, the staff was given a break, with a video worship provided by the Minneapolis Area Synod.

All our worship videos can be viewed on our YouTube channel, and they are also available on Facebook. While YouTube viewership dropped once we returned to in-person worship, we continue to reach up to 30 households each Sunday—some from



other parts of the country, and new viewers continue to subscribe to our channel. Our online presence has proved to be a good way to reach out to those who have not worshiped with us before, and we plan to continue with video worship even after COVID.

Thank you to the entire NHLC staff for their hard work and creativity in putting together in-person and online worship each week—to Pastor Kris and Pastor Steve for their inspiring messages; to Julie Urban and Sara Birkeland for their music leadership; to Holly Welch for her beautiful artwork used in worship and for posting the online worship each week; to Blanca Raniolo for her Spanish translations; to Amy Snetting for encouraging the youth and families to participate; to Joyce Suek and Cindy Nelson for preparing the Sunday bulletins, including in-person, online, and a new Spanish edition; and to adjunct staff member Dana Lonn for countless hours of recording and editing. We also give thanks for our regular worship coordinators—to Marti Priest for organizing our team of sacristans, to Lisa Bernard for securing ushers once we went back to in-person worship, to Kathy Ehlers for coordinating lectors, and to Renae Saville-Winter for organizing fellowship servers for after the services.

Some worship highlights for 2021:

- **Ash Wednesday** in-person time of reflection, confession, imposition of ashes, and Communion. The Sanctuary was open and participants signed up for a 15-minute slot. Ashes and communion were self-served, while Pastor Steve presided and offered prayers. Julie provided music for quiet reflection.
- **Lenten Midweek Worship on ZOOM.** Focusing on a Hebrew word (*shema, shuv, zakhar, misphat, gaal*) each week, we came together on ZOOM each Wednesday evening in Lent for a short time of prayer, song, and meditation.
- **Good Friday In-Person Reflection and Multi-Sensory Service of Healing.** For a 2-hour period in the evening, the church was open for a unique worship experience featuring original artwork by local artists, and stations for prayer, healing, Baptismal remembrance, and Holy Communion.
- **9-week “Summer of Love” worship series** focused on the book of 1 Corinthians
- **5-week “Just Love” worship series**, based on materials Pastor Kris wrote for Camp Wapo
- **Blessing of the Animals and Backpacks & Workbags** at Pearl Park on 9/12.



- **6-week worship series, “Fences & Wells,”** helped introduce our new NHLC core values. Each week featured a beautiful original painting by Communications Coordinator Holly Welch.
- **“My Heart Shall Sing,”** **Advent series** based on readings from the gospel of Luke, using global Christian songs and hymns to explore what the biblical text reveals.
- **Advent Festival of Lights,** featuring *Holden Evening Prayer*. We did not hold midweek Advent worship in 2021, but did hold one Holden Evening Prayer service, and made available to every household the Advent devotional, *The Wait of Advent*, written by member Autumn Lubin.
- **Guest preachers:** Pastors Kelly Chatman, Marc Olson, and Vern Christopherson



Creation Care Team Report for 2021

The mission of the Creation Care Team is to educate, advocate, and act to protect the environment.

We recognize that our planet faces major challenges related to climate change. Addressing this problem is a daunting task that will require personal, local, state, national, and international action and cooperation. We want Nokomis Heights to participate in this crucially important effort.

In 2021 we completed the following projects:

To Educate

- Sponsored 4 forums on environmental topics. Our forum on electric vehicles motivated the Day's to buy an EV and our forum on SunShare solar gardens motivated Mark and Marian to sign up!
- Reviewed Bill Gate's book "How to Prevent a Climate Change Disaster."

To Advocate

- Sponsored an Earth Day event to lobby for electric vehicle legislation.
- Wrote more than 100 emails to legislators to advocate for various environmental causes.
- Participated with Citizen's Climate Lobby and Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light to advocate for specific legislation and regulations. One member staffed the Citizen's Climate Lobby booth at the State Fair.

To Act

- Planted and maintained a beautiful pollinator garden and equipped it with a rain barrel.
- Converted our energy program with Excel Energy to the "Windsorce Program" that helps finance new wind turbine construction.
- Initiated a program to place Nokomis Heights on the waiting list to convert to power from a solar garden when solar garden capacity is available.

The following people are members of the Creation Care Team: Brian Breed, Laura Bretheim, Kim Bretheim, Patricia Day, Avis Jensen, Bill Kaemmerer, Gregg Kelley, Erika Olson, and Julia Murphy.

Pollinator garden planted and maintained by the Creation Care Team (with assistance from Jan Myers)



NHLC Care Team Report for 2021

This is the second annual report of the NHLC Care Team. The current team partners with Pastor Steve and includes Jan Myers, Carolyn Deters, Laura Morris, Jane and Wayne Hansen, and Kathy and Chuck Ehlers.

As the pandemic continues, the team continues to provide mostly “distanced” support to members who are not able to participate in church activities or wish for extra support. Each team member checks in with their assigned care by email, telephone, or greeting cards—and as possible, in person. We deliver devotional and other materials offered to congregational members. As we receive suggestions, we reach out to people who may appreciate individual support. We meet every other month to update each other about the lives of care receivers, receive encouragement ourselves, and trade ideas on new ways to offer care.

If you are interested in joining the team, receiving calls/visits from the team, or wish to offer suggestions, contact either Jan Myers or Pastor Steve.

Endowment Board Report for 2021

The Endowment Fund of Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church was established in 1993 to encourage giving and bequests, and to support new and creative ministries within or through our congregation that otherwise could not be undertaken via the congregation’s operating budget.

Similarly, the Endowment Board also serves as the administrator of the Melba Savold scholarship fund, established in April 2010 by the Savold family in memory of Melba, our former parish nurse and member of NHLC. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial support for the education of members of the congregation who are pursuing certificates or higher education in a health care-related field. There were no applications for the scholarship in 2021.

The Endowment Board distributed a total of \$10,000 in 2021 to the following funds:

- \$2000 to The Seward/Longfellow Restorative Justice Committee, which works with the community in ways to respond to harm and crime. We helped specifically with supporting City of Nations Storytelling as they hosted healing circles for immigrant business owners on Lake Street this past year; working with the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights to create a restorative justice option for people filing complaints and advising the writing of the statewide Youth Restorative Justice Act.
- \$4000 to Commonbond Communities to purchase beds and bedding for displaced/unhoused persons in Minneapolis who were able to secure long term/permanent housing.
- \$4000 to the Zion Baptist Church Boiler Project

Finance Committee Report for 2021

The Finance Committee is tasked with reviewing and advising the church council and congregation on all financial matters related to the church. Once again, the Finance Committee met fewer times than normal during 2021 due to COVID-19. However, we stayed in contact with the treasurer to monitor the financial operations of the congregation and review our current financial standing. 2021 was another very stable year financially for Nokomis Heights. As we go forward, we will continue to closely monitor the financial status of the church and its programs and take an active role in keeping the important issue of finances in front of the Council and congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelsgaard (Chair), Lisa Bernard, Wayne Hansen, Mark Lofthus, Jim Nelson, Chuck Ehlers,
Dana Lonn (Treasurer)

Property Report for 2021

Due to the generosity of its members, Nokomis Heights was able to do a great deal in 2021 to fix up and improve our great campus. Many volunteers also contributed to performing repairs, installing equipment, securing bids and planning for work to occur, preparing the kitchen for renovation, painting, snow shoveling, mowing, spring and fall cleanup, and other essential tasks required to keep any property functioning well, regardless of how old it is. Rather than name individuals with each task (and risk leaving someone out), know that we appreciate every single person who helped.

In no particular order of importance:

- **New gutters.** Lindus Construction installed a new Leaf Guard gutter system around the church and repaired a number of existing eaves. A well-regarded system with a lifetime warranty, it will ensure that no member has to be on a ladder removing leaves and other debris.
- **Kitchen.** The full year was consumed with demolition of the existing church kitchen, planning for what commercial kitchen-like stainless steel amenities would replace the old linoleum and wood, performing mechanical and structural work to install vents over the dishwasher and the ovens, painting the walls, installing a new drop ceiling, and re-connecting all the equipment for its first uses; minor repairs and tune-ups were done to the dishwasher and ovens. A re-christening of the kitchen will be planned for when we can convene in person and host a meal, followed by the inauguration of the Loaves and Fishes weekly meal, which was the primary impetus to install a brand-new kitchen. Even though official use of the kitchen has not begun, a “soft-open” occurred in early December when the kitchen was used to keep chili hot and serve it on a take-away basis for the Advent event.
- **Re-Use of the “Men’s Robe Room.”** A room off Fellowship Hall has, for many years, been used to store men’s choir robes and a variety of supplies. Now, with the remodeled kitchen, there is a need to store some of the kitchen supplies in another space, and that room has been re-purposed to house a good share of what formerly was kept in the kitchen.
- **Installation of new boilers.** The 60+ year-old boilers that provided heat to the Education wing



that houses the offices finally reached the end of their life. New boilers, financed with the Generosity capital campaign, were installed late fall. Adjustments and fine tuning of their installation continue over the winter.

- **Security system.** A vendor has been selected for card-reader access to the two most frequently used doors (by the courtyard/elevator, and north side kitchen door). This will give us a regular record of who has entered the building with controlled access when the doors are otherwise locked. Installation will occur this winter, and security cards (in place of keys) will be shared with members who need them.
- **Electrical system.** In the course of the kitchen and organ work, a number of “peculiar” electrical issues were uncovered; essentially, trying to uncover which lights and which outlets are served by which circuits. Suffice it to say that the amount of detail required to explain the intricacies of the electrical challenges at Nokomis Heights could take several pages to explain.
- **Painting.** The youth room on the lower level has been painted, as has the nursery. Mold was discovered on the walls of the nursery and the choir room, so that needed to be removed before they can be painted.
- **Pollinator garden.** The new garden on the northwest corner was planned, planted, and maintained by the Creation Care Team. Though original descriptions said it would not be in great shape until next year, it has turned out to be very attractive in year one and has attracted numerous bees and butterflies. As part of the new gutter system, a downspout support was built to connect water off the roof into the rain barrel.
- **New janitorial service.** The church contracted with Minneapolis Janitorial Service to come in once a week to vacuum, clean the bathrooms, remove the trash, and perform other services as needed. If you find something that needs to be done or done better, let a member of the property committee know.
- **Drainage work on the northwest side.** Drain tile was installed along the foundation on the northwest side of the church. This should stop the moisture problem that has caused plaster to crack in the men’s robe room.
- **Re-arranging spaces.** In order to make Nokomis Heights hospitable to new and evolving valuable purposes, several areas were cleaned out and re-arranged to support the Bilingual Learning Center. Also, the former “women’s robe room” upstairs off the sanctuary was cleaned out with removal of filing cabinets and very old sheet music and storage, to accommodate the costumes and furnishings for Kim Kokx’s summer plays and performances.
- **Organ renovation.** though not traditionally part of the property committee’s domain, the Generosity campaign allowed the church to renovate and update the technology of the 1963 organ. A little work remains to be done in 2022 when the vendor can schedule it.



Respectfully submitted, Scott Tollefson (Chair), Wayne Hansen, Mark Karraker, Gregg Kelley, Mark Lofthus, Dana Lonn, Tom O’Mara

Quilters & Stitches Report for 2021

In pre-COVID-19 years, the Quilters normally held two work sessions at church every month, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings. Also, on mornings of the Second Saturdays of the month, the Stitches met to work on a variety of projects. In 2021, again taking caution around the pandemic, we continued to put a pause on regular meeting activity and quilt production.

Nonetheless, during the year, the Quilters provided quilts as gifts from the congregation for 5 baptisms, for 3 girls and 2 boys.

Also, the groups also supported a few special events. In recognition of Cindy Nelson's 40 years of faithfully guiding the Sunday school, the Quilters made an anniversary quilt utilizing some graphics from many of her famous vacation Bible school themes. They also provided two quilts and other crafted items for sale in the Advent Festival of Lights marketplace. The Stitches helped to create ornament kits for a Nokomis Healthy Seniors holiday event and provided numerous craft items for the Marketplace at the Advent Festival of Lights.

With basically no quilt production and no sale proceeds, we have not been able to make our usual monetary donations. However, after the passing of the Omicron surge, we hope to be able to plan to safely resume quilt production for donations and sale in 2022.

Many thanks for the skills, and hours of work contributed by the hands of the Quilters and Stitches: Marian Blattner, Celeste Delap, Carolyn Deters, Jeanne Hanson, Mary Hurney, Avis Jensen, Laura Morris, Ruth & Julia Murphy, Jan Myers, Cindy Nelson, Toni Pelinka, Marti Priest, Katie Slingsby, and Joyce Suek.

We have benefited from so many of your donations of fabrics and yarn, that our closets are very full now! So, we need to change our position. We can only accept 100% cotton fabrics.

When it is safe to meet again, all are welcome to join the group, and work as much or as little as you are able, either at church or from home. In addition to our sale/donation quilt work, we are ready and delighted to make quilts commissioned for specific requests.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Deters



Racial Justice Team Report for 2021

Here are a few highlights from the work of the Racial Justice team in 2021:

Our partnership with the Center for Leadership and Neighborhood Engagement (CLNE), led by Pastor Kelly Chatman. With the help of CLNE, the members of our Racial Justice Team, Church Council, and Church Staff have taken the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), to help us understand our competence in intercultural relationships. For the past several months we have been meeting as accountability teams to discuss and develop our ability to adapt our behavior to cultural differences.

We are also working to develop relationships which we hope will bring about a greater degree of racial justice. These include:

- A relationship with New Creations Ministry here in South Minneapolis. Several members of Nokomis Heights have been participating in the distribution of food at the weekly food shelf hosted by New Creations Ministry.
- A relationship with Zion Baptist Church in North Minneapolis. Zion was the first Black church in Minneapolis, and for 132 years has been a place where the community gathers for worship, healing, community celebrations, to address the issues of social justice, and to meet basic needs of the community. CLNE is working to establish a collaboration of five Northside congregations including Zion Baptist, Redeemer Lutheran, Christ the River of Life Lutheran, St. Olaf Lutheran, and Salem. Several other metro area congregations that are in partnership with CLNE, including Nokomis Heights, are exploring ways to support the ministries of Zion Baptist and other Northside congregations.
- A possible relationship between a South Minneapolis neighborhood (Hale/Page/Diamond Lake) and a North Minneapolis neighborhood (Harrison) that would strengthen the sense that "we are in this together" as neighborhoods in Minneapolis. Together with Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, we have compiled a list of community leaders in the HPDL neighborhood, and we will be inviting them to participate in an asset mapping (i.e., identifying the strengths) of the HPDL neighborhood.



Present members of the Racial Justice Team are Lisa Bernard, Libby Bottem, Laura Bretheim, Shannon Bryant, Carl Christopherson, Christine Hurney, Laura Morris, Andrea Nasstrom, Carol Sersland, and Pastor Steve Delzer.

The Nokomis Heights Racial Justice Team is re-energizing its efforts in the new year and we are looking for people who are interested in participating in this work." If you are interested in participating in this work, please contact Pastor Steve by email at pastorsteve@nokomisheights.org or by cell phone: 507-838-5612.

South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels (SMMOW) Letter to Member Congregations

To the member churches of South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels:

This letter begins with gratitude for volunteers, congregations, staff, individual donors, the federal government, and Metro Meals on Wheels. Working together, all made it possible to respond to COVID-19 and near economic collapse by serving our neighbors 17,308 healthy meals at their homes in 2021. (For comparison, we delivered 11,341 meals in 2019 and in 13,655 in 2020.) Meal recipients were our neighbors who are elderly, have a disability or are unable (either temporarily or long-term) to prepare meals. The meals were delivered hot, daily, Monday-Friday with additional meals for weekends.

The nearly 27% increase in meals required more: more meal preparation, more oven and refrigerator space, more delivery routes, and more volunteer delivery drivers. We did it, with effort and changes from everyone involved. We did it while following COVID-19 protocols to protect our clients and volunteers. Financially, we needed more, too. We were blessed to receive it through Metro Meals on Wheels. Through government funding and charitable donations, Metro was able to pay for meals for COVID-19 clients plus more. This enabled SMMOW to focus on its mission without regard to fundraising in 2021.

SMMOW began as a joint ministry project of area churches, with the first meals delivered in January 1973 on china plates and with real silverware. That ministry continues to meet today's needs, through the 501(c)(3) incorporated charity formed and supported by the member churches.

SMMOW's meal ministry is delivered, managed, and supported by volunteers who come principally from its member churches and who are bolstered by others from the wider community. Volunteer drivers are the heart of SMMOW. They come from member churches and deliver meals with a smile and kind connection. Drivers are encouraged, scheduled, and supported by volunteer coordinators from member churches. Volunteers from the churches serve on the managing board of SMMOW and its committees. Church members individually donate to support SMMOW financially. Going forward, our greatest single need is for volunteers to participate in this ministry.

Member churches not only support SMMOW by encouraging their parishioners, each member church has committed to make an annual contribution to provide SMMOW with a stable source of basic funding. As we begin 2022, we ask each church to be aware that COVID funding is ending. Once again, SMMOW will depend upon your faithful contributions to sustain the ministry.

Sadly, we report the loss of a long-time member congregation. Mount Zion Lutheran Church has closed. We miss them.

We are grateful to everyone who aided the accomplishment of the work done in 2021. We look forward to continuing service in 2022. Challenges and possibilities include the continuing COVID 19 pandemic, ensuring meal quality, re-energizing our member churches and church members for this ministry, seeking new member churches/organizations and volunteers, and increasing our capacity to offer periodic delivery of frozen meals.

God's Peace,

Julie Cahoy, Board Chair, For the SMMOW Board

2021 SMMOW Member Churches

Annunciation Catholic Church
Bethlehem Covenant Church
Christ Church Lutheran
Church of the Holy Name Catholic
Diamond Lake Lutheran Church
Epworth United Methodist Church
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church
Lebanon Lutheran Church
Mayflower Congregational Church
Minnehaha United Methodist Church
Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church
Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church
Richfield Lutheran Church
St. Peder's Lutheran Church



715.268.8434
lakewapo.org

Congregational Report 2021

Thank you for being a Partner Congregation! We've nearly made it through another pandemic year! I remain grateful and inspired by the work and support of so many people who've continued to rally around this ministry in order that others should experience fellowship in community and come to know Jesus in these beautiful outdoor spaces. We couldn't have made it without the help from donors, prayer warriors, government pandemic programs, retreat guests, day visitors, campers, lively young adult summer staff, our local business banking and CPA offices, our Polk and Cook County health departments, congregations, and you! Special thanks goes out to our staff who exhibit flexibility and creativity as we continue to adapt to the changing Covid landscape.

2021 was challenging, but filled with bright spots. I expect much of the same for 2022 – exciting ministry opportunities, uncertainties about our participant numbers, continued health and safety Covid protocols, challenging budget needs, dynamic initiatives, challenging seasonal staff hiring environment, and more. We are poised to welcome these challenges and opportunities with grace, wisdom, humility and joy! We have good work to do.

Summer 2021 We were so grateful to bring back summer camp at all three of our sites with strong Covid protocols in place. Due to the nature of the way groups move in and out, Wilderness was able to run canoe trips at their normal level. Wapo and Ox Lake reduced camper capacity to about 40-44% and thankfully an unusually dry summer allowed us to do all normal camp activities outside – including meals. Our summer staff was outstanding! Their incredible level of energy and ability to be flexible gave kids a camp experience that felt “normal”. Camp was much needed after a year into the pandemic and we expect this feeling to continue into 2022.

Retreats and Events in 2021 Keeping strong Covid protocols in place we were able to host retreat groups at Wapo and Wilderness this fall and into the winter months. Rigorous cleaning and disinfecting protocols continue at all sites as well as masking in public areas. Special events continued with an adapted approach for the Memorial Day Breakfast and Advent on the Go but we were able to run a full Boat-in Worship season and Wapo golf tournament.

New Faces We welcomed Liz Bowman on Oct 18, 2021 as our Director of Food Services at Wapo and Eric Klein on Nov 1, 2021. Eric joins the program team with responsibilities for Wapo Seeds, Boat-In, Family Camp, and programmed retreats.

Wilderness Give to the Max Wilderness Canoe Base received a \$40,000 gift match for the GiveMN Give to the Max day. On November 18th, friends of WCB met that match, raising just over \$80,000 in one day for Wilderness Canoe Base.

The Gather Campaign for a new Dining Hall and Hospitality Center Our Site and Facilities crew will be finishing up Phase 1 of the Gather project this winter while development staff and campaign committee have begun feasibility interviews to determine the scope of Phase 2 to finish the project. We are incredibly grateful for the support we have received to be able to complete phase 1 with the funds we had already raised. Now as we live into this building and determine the needs for finishing the project, we are excited to make final plans in 2022 for what the completed building will look like. Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to financially support this important project as we continue to raise funds for Phase 2. See building progress at lakewapo.org.

Strategic Plan Initiative. This fall we began Strategic Initiative work with the Joshua Group. We launched a camp impact survey and started individual interviews with staff, Board, and friends of the organization. This strategic work will help us be aligned for meaningful and transformative ministry in an ever-changing ministry landscape.

Our theme for 2022 is “Take Hold” John 16:33 says, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” This summer we will explore what it means for roots of faith to take hold of the soil around us, as the soil takes hold of us. We know Jesus changed everything when he conquered the world for all. He gives us his peace even when the world gives us trouble, and helps us to see how God's love changed everything for all people. Join us as we Take Hold of this promise.

We look ahead with eager anticipation and a sure sense of hope.



Minneapolis Area Synod
of the ELCA

Bishop's Annual Report for 2021

God's grace, peace, and hope be with you through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

I begin by sharing my profound gratitude to you – for your faithfulness, perseverance, and compassion revealed in countless ways during this global pandemic, now nearing the start of its third year.

As I reflect on the ministry of our synod in 2021, I am surprised to discover a number of “firsts” – something I did not expect in a pandemic year. In 2021:

- We received an unprecedented \$285,000 gift to provide educational debt relief to synod rostered leaders who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Currently, 12 percent of rostered leaders serving synod congregations are BIPOC, a sign of growth which will be strengthened by this gift.
- With our first ever million-dollar grant from the Lilly Endowment, we called Nick Tangen and Maya Bryant to lead our Faith and Neighboring Practices program, currently working with 13 congregations.
- In October, we set a goal to raise \$500,000 in three months to partner with our global companion synod in launching the first ever Lutheran University in Nigeria. As of this writing, we have \$298,000 in gifts, \$56,000 in pledges, and are awaiting word about a significant gift from the ELCA World Hunger Program!
- We rejoiced with Alleluia! Lutheran Church in St. Michael as they dedicated their brand-new church building. We have celebrated many remodeling projects in our synod, this was the first completely new structure built in more than ten years.
- We welcomed Holy Cross Lutheran Church, originally a Missouri Synod congregation, into the synod.
- Led by VP Felecia Boone and Eric Howard, a task force has been working to apply a racial equity lens to the way our synod distributes funds and utilizes resources.
- We helped launch the Center for Leadership and Neighborhood Engagement (CLNE) led by Rev. Kelly Chatman. CLNE convened a virtual prayer tent for 77 straight days during the trial of Derek Chauvin. Now, they host “Come Together,” a virtual conversation on the third Thursday evening of each month.
- We held our first Zoom Synod Assembly with speakers Dr. Drew Hart and Michael Osterholm; offered our first online Tool Kit (to be expanded in 2022); and provided four online worship services to provide respite and build unity across the synod.
- Listening to the weariness of our rostered leaders, we cancelled Bishop's Theological Conference for the first time and organized the whole staff in a caring process for our leaders, “Tending Weary Souls.”
- We are preparing to host the ELCA Youth Gathering – the first ever held in Minneapolis, July 21-28, 2022.

Though a list of “firsts” can make for an interesting annual report, the ministries that continue day-in and day-out are the work that sustains. We are blessed with over 675 rostered leaders, 307 serving in calls and 370 retired or without call. In 2021, we supported 57 persons preparing to become deacons or pastors. We work hard so the church has the loving, faithful, and theologically well-formed ministers it needs.

Our monthly conference meetings and other synod gatherings continue to reveal a real hunger for leaders to stay connected and discern best practices for ministry in these times. We are honored and humbled by our calling to serve as convener of such holy conversations.

It is the generosity of congregations like yours that make the synod's work possible. Thank you! We seek to be careful stewards of every gift.

A year of firsts. More importantly, we gather around the unique, first-ever, Word made flesh – the Christmas miracle of God becoming human for us and our salvation. And even more, this Word made flesh abides with us – through all our firsts and lasts and everything in between.

With a grateful heart, Bishop Ann Svennungsen

Treasurer's Report for the Year 2021

The detailed financial statement for 2021 follows:

1. General Fund giving for 2021 was \$398,635.07, which compares to a plan of \$353,100 and prior year giving of \$331,987.14. The plan for envelope receipts was \$347,000 with actual receipts being \$392,489.70. We exceeded our giving plan by almost 13%, which is amazing in a pandemic year where we have been able to hold in person services outdoors in the summer and indoors beginning in late October. An important measure of the success and vitality of a congregation is exceeding the giving plan. It is always hard to understand the root cause of giving but it is in my view there are several factors. One is a show of the optimism in the community about the future. A combination of excellent pastoral leadership, a robust/high quality online presence and creative, meaningful outdoor worships resulted in never-before-seen growth. We continue to be very dependent upon a very few members; 50% of our current expense income comes from 10 contributors (compared to 13 in 2010 and 20 in 2000). The total number of tracked contributors grew by 4%. I would anticipate a change in this as the new members fully engage in the community.
2. The General Fund income exceeded expenses by \$14,954.69. General Fund spending was \$27,524.17 more than the expense plan that was authorized at the annual meeting. I must beg for mercy and forgiveness. This exceeds our constitutional limit of 5% of the approved budget by \$9,716.58 or 7.7% over the approved budget. Approximately \$10,000 was a due to staff-related expenses where the budget assumptions were not correct. Maintenance costs incurred one large expense of \$8,823 to replace the rain gutters and some rotten wood where the gutters were mounted. There were approximately \$3,000 of additional outreach expenses to improve social media visibility and embrace our engagement with CLNE. Stewardship campaign materials for the Open Doors initiative also hit 2021 expenses. The property expenses were partially offset by reduced utility costs because of limited building use because of COVID-19 related cancellations.
3. A commitment was made in 2021 to give 10% of our General Fund budget to outside organizations. 5% was given to support the ELCA. The congregation suggested and voted on who should receive the remaining 5%. The congregation voted on the organizations and the contributions were made proportional to the votes received. A gift of \$5,000, shown in the pass-through fund, was made to supplement the tithe, and was distributed according to the voting. See further in the report for a list of the organizations and amounts given.
4. Cause specific pass through giving totaled \$31,398.50. This up from \$23,255.99 in 2020. No match offers were made this year. This includes the \$5,000 tithe supplement noted above.
5. Giving during the holiday seasons of Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas totaled \$490. This compares to \$4,609.46 in 2019.
6. Giving to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal totaled \$1,050. No loose change was collected or was a Thanksgiving service held.
7. Designated cash giving through Nokomis Heights to Community Emergency Service (Food Shelf) fell to \$4,915.00 in 2021, compared to \$9,685.00 in 2020. This does not include contributions of food or contributions made directly to CES by Nokomis Heights members.
8. The building fund is being used to collect the gifts for the Opening Doors Capital Appeal. In 2021, \$218,260 was received plus \$79,970 received in 2020, for a total of \$298,230. Spending to date is \$150,381.61 for the kitchen, \$43,450 for organ, and \$34,863 for the Education Building boiler. Some additional spending remains to complete the kitchen project. Additional was identified for some additional maintenance on the organ identified. Improvements to sanctuary to improve the sound system and better capture the experience for our online service is being researched. You will hear more soon. Current balance of the Capital Campaign is \$70,715.61

9. The following are distribution from the Endowment Fund in 2021. A \$1,000 could have been distributed but the Endowment Fund board decided not to distribute it.
 - Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice \$2,000.00
 - Common Bond Communities \$4,000.00
 - Zion Baptist Boiler \$4,000.00
 - Investment Management Fees \$3,151.87
10. No contributions were made to the Endowment Fund during 2021. Endowment Fund assets grew to \$322,284.17. Endowment funds are all held in a Thrivent Financial account and are invested in a managed portfolio designed to balance growth and income.
11. At year end, \$12,649.18 is in the NHLC Ministry Fund and is available to be spent by the Church Council.
12. In addition to the causes identified on the Benevolence Fund (pass through) financial statement, giving summarized in the Miscellaneous Designated line item:
 - Africa Classroom Connection \$1,454.50
 - Souper Bowl—Our Saviour’s Shelter \$425.00
 - LIRS \$1,375.00
 - BLC Fall Festival \$25.00
 - Zion Baptist Boiler \$1,000.00
 - Tithe Supplement \$5,000.00
13. Giving to the Missionary Sponsorship was \$1.50 during 2021. The balance of \$531.90 was distributed to ELCA world missions.
14. Memorial gifts to Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church totaled \$1,102.09 and were received as follows:
 - Marian Aaker \$ 150.00
 - Mel Flom \$ 100.00
 - Lorraine Westley \$ 650.00
 - Cyrus Kingsburg \$ 150.00
 - Interest \$ 52.09

During 2021 a total of \$2,488.69 of Memorial Funds were distributed as follows:

 - Portable Sound System \$ 1,566.83
 - Wireless Microphones \$ 921.86
15. Our Saviour’s Shelter meal expenses totaled \$5,033.79 in 2021. Income for the year was \$3,999.50. The current balance is \$3,096.70.
16. The "Savold Caregiver Scholarship Fund" is administered by the NHLC Endowment Fund board. Current balance is \$3,894.49. No distribution was made this year.
17. Financial processing fees continue to rise. We spent \$4,262.03. This is for bank analysis charges, GivePlus+, Quickbooks Online software, and payroll service. As we continue the move from cash and checks to credit and electronic transfers, fees will continue to rise.
18. Check the website to learn more about electronic giving. You may either give via our website, the Vanco Mobile app, or via cash or check. Please contact Dana Lonn with any questions.
19. If you have appreciated stock investments you may want to consider gifting that stock to Nokomis Heights as a part of your giving. This is an extremely effective way to give. Stock that is given to Nokomis Heights is reported at the value on the day of the gift. However, you will never have to pay taxes on the capital appreciation that has occurred in that stock. If you are interested in giving appreciated stock as a part of your giving, please contact Dana Lonn for information.

Please review the information provided. If you have questions, please contact Dana Lonn at 612-824-6074 (home) or 612-599-4430 (cell) or via e-mail at danalonn@comcast.net or simply@nokomisheights.org.

NHLC Financial Statement December 2021

YTD FUND RECAP:						
	Beginning			Ending		
	Balance	Income	Expense	Balance		
Current Fund	131,237	398,635	(383,680)	146,192		
Benevolence	929	31,399	(32,328)	-		
Special Funds	72,790	20,616	(19,447)	73,959		
Open Doors Capital Fund	80,890	218,520	(228,695)	70,716		
Endowment Fund	299,223	36,213	(13,152)	322,284		
Total Funds	585,069	705,383	(677,302)	613,150		
YTD ACTIVITY:						
	Monthly			YTD		
Current	Actual	Budget	Diff	Actual	Budget	Diff
Income:						
Current	56,761	49,412	7,349	398,635	353,100	45,535
Total Income	56,761	49,412	7,349	398,635	353,100	45,535
Expenses:						
Administration	30,005	24,468	5,537	273,837	259,413	14,425
Christian Education	1,777	1,500	277	4,616	5,300	(684)
Hospitality	389	720	(331)	11,710	9,500	2,210
Outreach	4,375	13,375	(9,000)	35,500	35,500	-
Property	9,969	2,725	7,244	46,966	41,094	5,872
Stewardship	-	-	-	5,628	700	4,928
Worship & Music	984	1,300	(316)	4,543	3,650	893
Youth	367	100	267	880	1,000	(120)
Total Expense	47,866	44,188	3,678	383,680	356,156	27,524
Net Income Current	8,896	5,225	3,671	14,955	(3,056)	18,011
Other						
Income:						
Benevolence				31,399		31,399
Special Funds				20,616		20,616
Open Doors Capital Fund				218,520		218,520
Endowment - Contributions				-		-
Endowment - Gain (Loss)				36,213		36,213
Total Income				306,748	-	306,748
Expense:						
Benevolence				32,328		32,328
Special Funds				19,447		19,447
Open Doors Capital Fund				228,695		228,695
Endowment - Distributions				10,000		10,000
Endowment - Expenses				3,152		3,152
Total Expense				293,622	-	293,622
Net Income Other				13,127	-	13,127
GRAND TOTAL NET INCOME				28,081	(3,056)	31,138

NHLC Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2021

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
BMO Harris Checking	168,523.91
BMO Harris Pastors' Checking	352.39
Mission Loan Money Market	129,448.93
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 298,325.23
Total Current Assets	\$ 298,325.23
Other Assets	
Building Addition	462,505.03
Church, land, buildings, equip	369,915.33
Three Panel Mural	76,000.00
Total Other Assets	\$ 908,420.36
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,206,745.59
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
BMO Harris Visa Card	3,062.13
Total Credit Cards	\$ 3,062.13
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	
Federal Taxes (941/944)	3,058.93
State Taxes	489.53
Total Payroll Liabilities	\$ 3,548.46
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 3,548.46
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 6,610.59
Total Liabilities	\$ 6,610.59
Equity	
Equity Opening Balance	1,052,602.27
Retained Earnings	142,512.29
Net Revenue	5,020.44
Total Equity	\$ 1,200,135.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 1,206,745.59

Fund Balances as of December 31, 2021

	December 31, 2021
Benevolence Fund	0.00
Building Fund	70,715.61
Continuing Education Associate	2,099.96
Continuing Education Senior	1,801.70
Current Expense Fund	146,191.57
Kitchen Remodeling Fund	
Fireside Room Remodeling	-1,490.27
Kitchen Remodeling Fund - Other	1,490.27
Total Kitchen Remodeling Fund	
Ladies' Fingers Fund	0.00
Library Fund	356.91
Mask Making Sharing	2,251.76
Missionary Sponsorship Fund	0.00
NHLC Ministry Fund	
Older Adult Ministry	953.37
NHLC Ministry Fund - Other	11,695.81
Total NHLC Ministry Fund	12,649.18
Nursery Fund	490.09
Our Savior's Shelter Fund	3,096.70
Parents' Morning Out Fund	861.00
Pastors' Emergency Fund	2,584.27
Pending Memorials	17,504.41
Quilters	278.98
Savold Caregiver Scholarship	3,894.49
Sculmerich Bell Fund	1,371.22
Special Music Fund	1,961.51
Sunday School Fund	193.49
Technology Update Fund	0.00
Water to Thrive	3,767.10
WELCA Fund	470.03
Youth Fund	16,007.43
Youth Ministry/Outreach Fund	2,318.62

Budget vs. Actuals: General Fund
January - December 2021

	Total	
	Actual	Budget
Current Expense Fund Income		
Christmas	450.00	1,000.00
Easter		500.00
Envelope Receipts	392,489.70	347,000.00
Interest	407.37	1,000.00
Ladies Fingers		100.00
Lent	45.00	100.00
Loose Cash	3,780.00	2,500.00
Miscellaneous Income	613.00	600.00
Rental Income	850.00	300.00
Total Current Expense Fund Income	\$ 398,635.07	\$ 353,100.00
Expenditures		
Current Expense Fund Expense		
Administration		
Major Medical and Pension	13,223.04	13,223.04
Miscellaneous	1,365.68	1,500.00
Office Expenses	8,983.87	8,000.00
Bank and Payroll Fees	4,262.03	
Postage	1,064.15	
Total Office Expenses	\$ 14,310.05	\$ 8,000.00
Pastors' Expense	918.48	3,000.00
Payroll Taxes	8,062.28	7,567.33
Staff Salary	225,542.13	218,847.29
Substitutes	2,175.00	3,000.00
Technology Support	1,778.66	250.00
Telephone	2,864.14	2,200.00
Workers' Compensation	3,598.00	1,825.00
Total Administration	\$ 273,837.46	\$ 259,412.66
Christian Education		
Adult Education	1,800.00	1,000.00
Conferences and Conventions		1,000.00
Continuing Education Lay	35.00	100.00
Continuing Education Pastors	1,200.00	1,200.00
Crafts	27.38	100.00
Devotional Quarterly	341.50	350.00
Library		150.00
Pastors' Book Allowance	17.27	200.00
Youth Education	1,194.58	1,200.00
Total Christian Education	\$ 4,615.73	\$ 5,300.00

	Total	
	Actual	Budget
Hospitality		
Advent & Lenten Suppers		100.00
Fluids & Supplies	255.53	500.00
Loaves and Fishes Operations		2,600.00
Miscellaneous Events	2,494.11	300.00
Outreach/Communication	8,960.28	6,000.00
Total Hospitality	\$ 11,709.92	\$ 9,500.00
Outreach		
ELCA Mission Support	17,500.00	17,500.00
Outside Giving	18,000.00	18,000.00
Total Outreach	\$ 35,500.00	\$ 35,500.00
Property		
Electricity	4,142.51	5,000.00
Elevator Costs	1,870.93	1,200.00
Insurance	9,470.54	9,343.55
Janitorial Services	3,533.00	
Maintenance	17,990.67	14,400.00
Natural Gas	6,615.22	6,500.00
Street and Light Maintenance	419.00	450.00
Water and Sewer	2,923.81	4,200.00
Total Property	\$ 46,965.68	\$ 41,093.55
Stewardship		
Envelopes and Folders	97.48	200.00
Stewardship Program	5,530.54	500.00
Total Stewardship	\$ 5,628.02	\$ 700.00
Worship and Music		
Adult Choir	59.50	100.00
Banners	3.94	100.00
Bulletins		100.00
Chancel Expenses	1,529.98	1,200.00
Decorations and Flowers	413.00	1,000.00
Organist		150.00
Special Music Exp		400.00
Special Worship Materials	2,536.67	600.00
Total Worship and Music	\$ 4,543.09	\$ 3,650.00
Youth Ministry		
Youth Program Expenses	880.48	1,000.00
Total Youth Ministry	\$ 880.48	\$ 1,000.00
Total Current Expense Fund Expense	\$ 383,680.38	\$ 356,156.21

Budget vs. Actuals: Opening Doors Capital Appeal
January - December 2021

	Total	
	Actual	Budget
Building Fund Income		
Contributions Building Fund	218,260.00	
Interest Building Fund	260.48	
Total Building Fund Income	\$ 218,520.48	\$ 0.00
Building Fund Expense		
Building Improvements	228,694.61	
Total Building Fund Expense	\$ 228,694.61	\$ 0.00

Budget vs. Actuals: Benevolence Fund (Pass Through)
January - December 2021

	Total	
	Actual	Budget
Revenue		
Benevolence Fund Income		
Designated Benevolence Income		
Community Emergency Service	4,915.00	
Disaster Relief	7,234.00	
Habitat for Humanity Income	3,000.00	
Miscellaneous Designated	9,279.50	
REAL Mission Support Income	720.00	
South Minneapolis Supply Drive Income	5,200.00	
World Hunger Appeal	1,050.00	
Total Designated Benevolence Income	\$ 31,398.50	\$ 0.00
Total Benevolence Fund Income	\$ 31,398.50	\$ 0.00
Benevolence Fund Expense		
Designated Expense		
Community Emergency Service	4,915.00	
Disaster Relief	7,234.00	
Habitat for Humanity Expenses	3,000.00	
Miscellaneous Designated	9,279.50	
REAL Mission Expense	720.00	
South Minneapolis Supply Drive Expenses	6,129.31	
World Hunger Appeal	1,050.00	
Total Designated Expense	\$ 32,327.81	\$ 0.00
Total Benevolence Fund Expense	\$ 32,327.81	\$ 0.00

2021 Tithe Gift Recipients

Organization	Budget Gift \$	Tithe Supplement Gift \$	Total Gift \$
Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative	\$ 243	\$ 75	\$ 318
Nokomis Healthy Seniors	\$ 399	\$ 110	\$ 509
Our Justice	\$ 1,231	\$ 341	\$ 1,572
Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp	\$ 1,097	\$ 304	\$ 1,401
Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice	\$ 798	\$ 221	\$ 1,019
Harry Meyering Center	\$ 632	\$ 175	\$ 807
Water to Thrive	\$ 1,064	\$ 295	\$ 1,359
Prepare + Prosper	\$ 432	\$ 120	\$ 552
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity	\$ 765	\$ 212	\$ 977
Bilingual Learning Center (BLC)	\$ 3,260	\$ 905	\$ 4,165
Africa Classroom Connection	\$ 831	\$ 231	\$ 1,062
Community Emergency Service	\$ 1,330	\$ 369	\$ 1,699
Our Savior's Housing	\$ 865	\$ 240	\$ 1,105
South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels	\$ 565	\$ 157	\$ 722
Second Harvest Heartland	\$ 499	\$ 138	\$ 637
Reconciling Works	\$ 731	\$ 203	\$ 934
Northside Achievement Zone	\$ 1,064	\$ 295	\$ 1,359
Lutheran Social Service of MN	\$ 565	\$ 157	\$ 722
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 299	\$ 83	\$ 382
Urban League	\$ 632	\$ 175	\$ 807
Every Meal	\$ 698	\$ 194	\$ 892
Total Votes/Tithe by Organization	\$ 18,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 23,000

2021 Budget vs. Actual: Other Funds
January - December 2021

	Total	
	Actual	Budget
Other Funds Income		
Continuing Ed Associate Income	5.94	
Continuing Ed Senior Income	1,201.70	
Library Fund Income	1.01	
Mask Making Sharing Income	546.15	
Missionary Sponsorship Income	1.50	
NHLC Ministry Income	35.25	
Nursery Fund Income	1.38	
Our Saviors' Shelter	3,999.50	
Parents' Morning Out Income	2.42	
Pastors' Emergency Income	5,106.18	
Pending Memorials Income	1,102.09	
Quilters Income	30.74	
Savold - Caregiver Income	10.99	
Sculmerich Bell Income	3.89	
Special Music Income	5.55	
Sunday School Income	0.56	
Water to Thrive	7,441.93	
WELCA Income	1.32	
Youth Income	612.23	
Youth Ministry/Outreach Income	506.15	
Total Other Funds Income	\$ 20,616.48	\$ 0.00
Other Funds Expenses		
Mask Making Sharing Expenses	247.05	
Missionary Sponsorship Expenses	531.90	
NHLC Ministry Expenses	0.00	
Our Savior's Shelter Expenses	5,033.79	
Pastors' Emergency Expense	4,290.00	
Pending Memorial Expense	2,488.69	
Water to Thrive	5,181.00	
Youth Fund Expenses	1,239.86	
Youth Ministry/Outreach Expense	435.00	
Total Other Funds Expenses	\$ 19,447.29	\$ 0.00

1. Interest is allocated to each fund on a monthly basis and is included as a part of income.
2. A detailed accounting of memorials is available. Receipts and disbursements from the pending memorials are listed in the treasurer's notes at the beginning of this report.

Endowment Fund 2021

Nov 30, 21

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

NFS Prime Fund Capital Reserves 6,386.95

Total Checking/Savings 6,386.95

Other Current Assets

Thrivent Equities

Ishares Core S&P Total US Stock 13,756.19

Ishares Edge MSCI Min Vol USA 6,456.60

Ishares S&P 500 9,610.23

Ishares TR US Treas BD ETF 6,204.79

IShares Z20+ Year Treasury 13,339.92

SPDR Euro Stoxx 50 ETF 6,312.57

Vanguard Indes FDS Vanguard Val 9,688.00

Vanguard Small Cap Value 6,349.94

Vanguard Tax-Managed FDS FTSE 3,081.40

Total Thrivent Equities 74,799.64

Thrivent Mutual Funds Equity

DFA International Core Equity 12,516.79

Janus Enterprise Class I 6,672.33

JP Morgan Small Cap Equity 12,544.21

Mainstay Large Cap Growth 6,699.60

Mairs & Power Growth Fund 13,362.51

Oakmark International Fund 3,162.71

T Rowe Price Emerging Mkts 5,379.42

T Rowe Price Intl Concentrated 3,091.44

Thrivent Large Cap Growth Fund 23,500.07

Thrivent Large Cap Value Fund 36,445.74

Thrivent Small Cap Growth Fund 6,555.49

Wells Fargo Special Mid Cap CLI 6,579.49

Total Thrivent Mutual Funds Equity 136,509.80

Thrivent Mutual Funds Fixed Inc

Doubleline Total Return Bond Fd 12,584.53

Goldman Sachs Emerging Markets 3,019.61

Thrivent High Yield Fund CL I 18,949.40

Thrivent Income Fund CL I 6,305.72

Thrivent Limited Maturity Bond 38,571.93

Thrivent Opportunity Income + 25,156.59

Total Thrivent Mutual Funds Fixed Inc 104,587.78

Total Other Current Assets 315,897.22

Total Current Assets 322,284.17

TOTAL ASSETS 322,284.17

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	159,615.43
Unrestricted Net Assets	139,607.74
Net Income	<u>23,061.00</u>
Total Equity	<u>322,284.17</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>322,284.17</u></u>

Endowment Fund 2021 Profit and Loss Summary

	<u>Dec '20 - Nov 21</u>
Income	
Realized/Unrealized Gain (Loss)	<u>36,212.87</u>
Total Income	36,212.87
Expense	
Endowment Fund Distributions	10,000.00
Management Fee	<u>3,151.87</u>
Total Expense	<u>13,151.87</u>
Net Income	<u><u>23,061.00</u></u>

Auditors' Statement

January 15, 2022

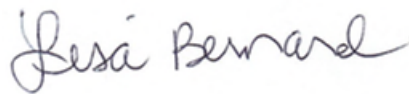
Auditors' Statement

We have reviewed the financials statements of Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church for 2021. Our review consisted of verification of all asset balances and a random selection of income and expense accounts. In addition, we reviewed with the treasurer the key financial controls currently in place. We feel that the financial statements presented accurately and fairly reflect the financial position of the Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church for the year 2021.

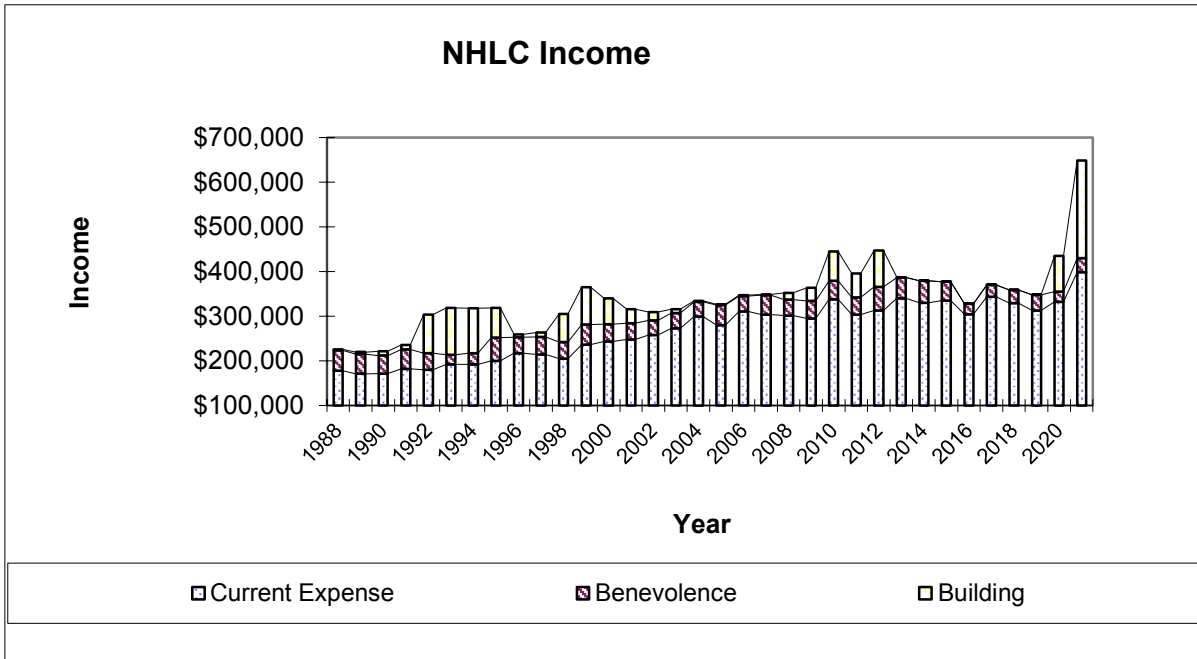
Audit Committee

Gregg Kelley

Lisa Bernard

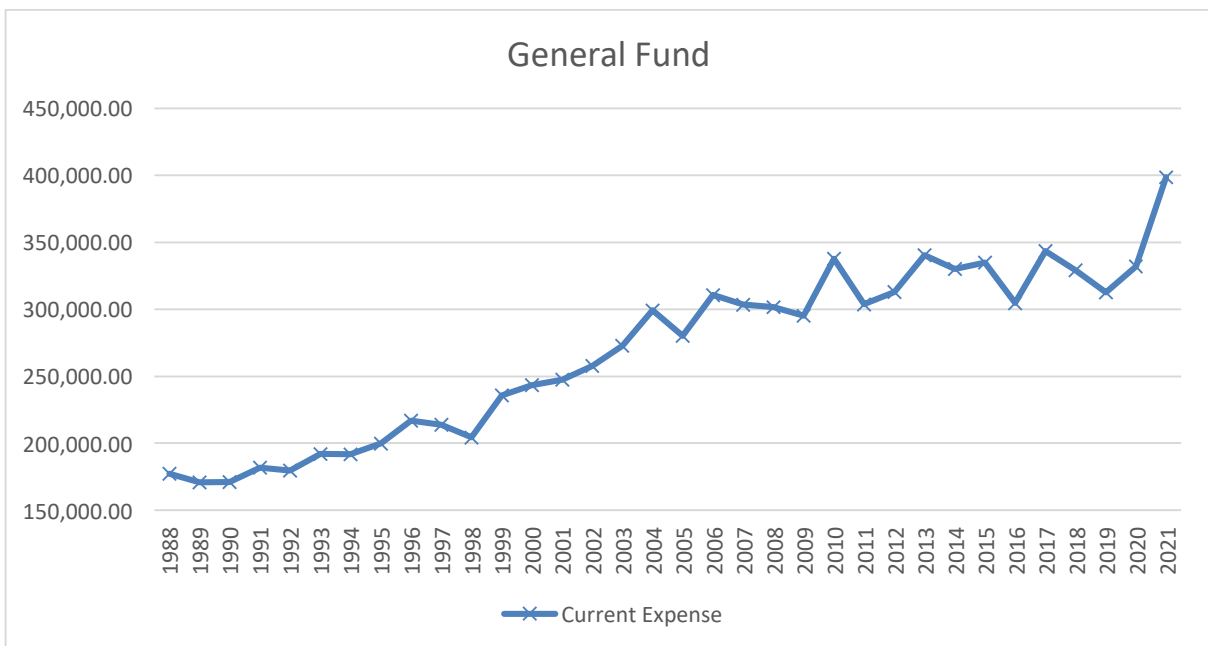
Handwritten signature of Gregg Kelley in cursive script.Handwritten signature of Lisa Bernard in cursive script.

NHLC Income History



The chart above summarizes the historical income patterns for the years 1988 through the current year. The bottom bar is the giving to current expenses (the budget), the center bar is to benevolent causes, the top bar is building fund (Opening Doors), which are capital campaigns.

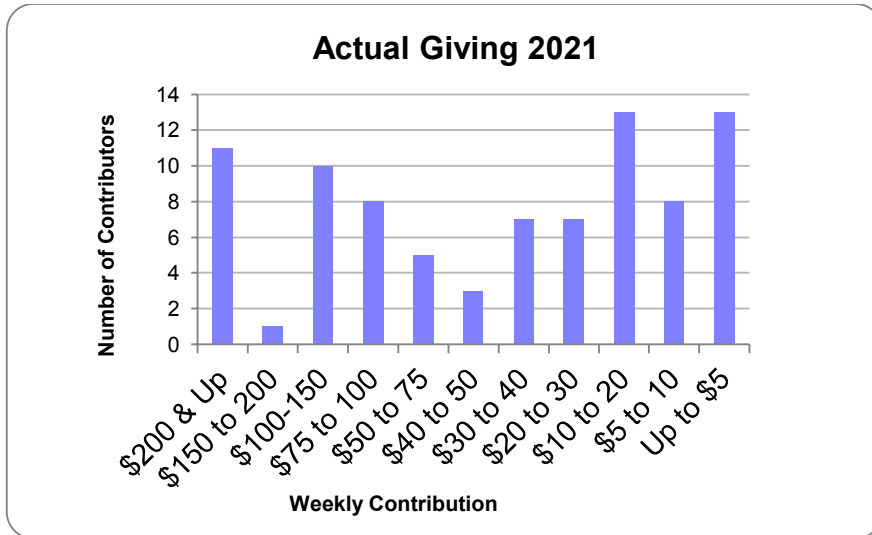
Below is a historical look at giving to the General Fund. It turns out that giving is more predictable than are expenses.



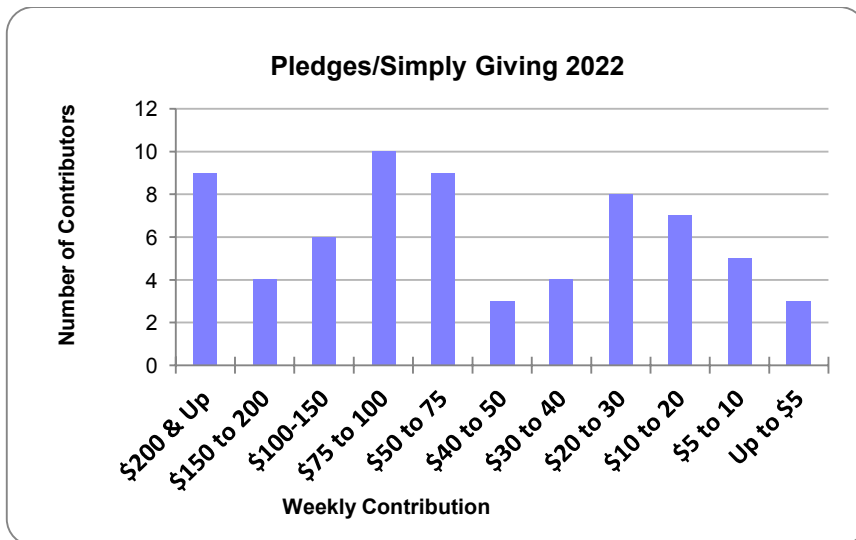
NHLC Summary of Anticipated Giving for 2022

We received 38 pledge cards this year, a similar number to what we received in the recent past. The total giving reflected in those indications is \$248,000. We have 53 families that participate in recurring Give Plus electronic giving. The recurring electronic giving totals 213,000. You cannot just add the two numbers as many of the families use both. The total number of families who either completed a pledge card, participate in Give Plus or both is 68. The third datapoint that is used to make an estimate of giving is actual giving in 2021. By utilizing the indicated pledge, Give Plus, or last year's giving the estimated income in tracked giving is \$395,000. That is reflects flat to 2021 but a 21% increase over 2020.

The distribution of actual giving for 2021 was:



The distribution of pledges/give plus for 2022 is:



2022 Plan Notes

Below are the highlights of the financial plan:

1. Salary increases 3.0%
2. A paid Loaves and Fishes coordinator at 8 hours per week, \$20.00, beginning in April.
3. Loaves and Fishes starts in April with 100 meals at \$1/meal.
4. Tithe is set at 10% of estimated income split evenly between the Minneapolis Area Synod and other outside causes yet to be determined.
5. No custodian employee, continue with janitorial service.
6. Assumed that we would fund strategic planning with NHLC Ministry Fund.
7. Assumed any capital improvements to support the online services would be paid by the Open Doors Capital appeal.

COMMITTEE	BUDGET ITEM	2021 Actual	2020 Plan	2021 Plan	2022 Budget
	Operating Contributions				
	Envelopes	392,489.70	301,000.00	345,000.00	395,000.00
	Loose Cash	3,780.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	3,400.00
	Lenten Gifts	45.00	1,000.00	100.00	0.00
	Easter	0.00	1,200.00	500.00	0.00
	Christmas	450.00	2,400.00	1,000.00	0.00
	Interest	407.37	700.00	1,000.00	500.00
	Ladies Fingers	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
	Rentals	850.00	2,000.00	300.00	500.00
	Miscellaneous Income	613.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
	Income TOTAL	398,635.07	311,500.00	351,100.00	400,000.00
	Operating Disbursements				
	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION				
	Adult Education	1,800.00	1,500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
	Conferences & Conventions	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
	Continuing Ed-Lay	35.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	Continuing Ed-Pastors	1,200.00	800.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
	Crafts	27.38	100.00	100.00	100.00
	Devotional Quarterly	341.50	350.00	350.00	350.00
	Library	0.00	300.00	150.00	150.00
	Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Pastors' Book Allowance	17.27	200.00	200.00	200.00
	Youth Education	1,194.58	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
	Education TOTAL	4,615.73	5,550.00	5,300.00	5,300.00

OUTREACH					
	ELCA Mission Support	17,500.00	14,000.00	17,500.00	20,000.00
	Lk Wapogasset Bible Camp	0.00	700.00		
	Lutheran Social Services	0.00	900.00		
	Lutheran World Relief	0.00	600.00		
	Meals Via Wheels	0.00	700.00		
	Outside Giving	18,000.00		18,000.00	20,000.00
	Reconciling Works	0.00	1,100.00		
	Trinity Lutheran	0.00	600.00		
	Outreach TOTAL	35,500.00	18,600.00	35,500.00	40,000.00
HOSPITALITY					
	Advent and Lenten Suppers	255.53	250.00	100.00	100.00
	Fellowship Fluids & Supplies	0.00	1,200.00	500.00	500.00
	Loaves & Fishes Operations	0.00		2,600.00	3,900.00
	Miscellaneous Events	2,494.11	450.00	300.00	300.00
	Outreach/Communication	8,960.28	1,000.00	6,000.00	8,000.00
	Hospitality TOTAL	11,709.92	2,900.00	9,500.00	12,800.00
PROPERTY					
	Electricity	4,142.51	6,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
	Elevator Costs	1,870.93	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
	Insurance	9,470.54	8,755.49	9,343.55	9,549.39
	Janitorial Service	3,533.00	0.00	0.00	10,400.00
	Maintenance	17,990.67	14,400.00	14,400.00	15,600.00
	Natural Gas	6,615.22	7,500.00	6,500.00	7,500.00
	Street and Light Maintenance	419.00	450.00	450.00	450.00
	Water/Sewer/Trash	2,923.81	4,200.00	4,200.00	3,000.00
	Property TOTAL	46,965.68	42,505.49	41,093.55	52,699.39
STEWARDSHIP					
	Envelopes/folders	97.48	200.00	200.00	200.00
	Miscellaneous Stewardship	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Stewardship program	5,530.54	500.00	500.00	500.00
	Stewardship TOTAL	5,628.02	700.00	700.00	700.00
WORSHIP & MUSIC					
	Adult Choir	59.50	100.00	100.00	100.00
	Banners	3.94	100.00	100.00	100.00
	Bulletins	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	Chancel Exp	1,529.98	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
	Decorations/Flowers	413.00	800.00	800.00	800.00
	Organist	0.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
	Special Music	0.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
	Special Worship Materials	2,536.67	800.00	800.00	5,800.00
	Worship & Music TOTAL	4,543.09	3,650.00	3,650.00	8,650.00

YOUTH MINISTRY					
	Jr. High Program	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Sr. High Program	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Youth Program Expenses	880.48	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
	Youth Ministry TOTAL	880.48	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
ADMINISTRATION					
	Major Medical & Pension	13,223.04	24,956.64	13,223.04	13,625.18
	Miscellaneous	1,365.68	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
	Office Expense	14,310.05	8,000.00	8,000.00	9,000.00
	Pastors' Expense	918.48	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
	Payroll Tax	8,062.28	6,314.32	7,567.33	9,579.61
	Staff Salary	225,542.13	166,876.16	218,847.29	248,799.66
	Substitutes	2,175.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
	Technology Support	1,778.66	250.00	250.00	250.00
	Telephone/Internet	2,864.14	2,200.00	2,200.00	3,000.00
	Workers' Compensation	3,598.00	2,251.00	1,825.00	1,825.00
	Total Personnel Costs	253,518.93	206,398.12	247,462.65	279,829.45
	Administration TOTAL	273,837.46	218,348.12	259,412.65	293,579.45
	TOTAL EXPENSES	383,680.38	293,253.61	356,156.20	414,728.84
	Net Income less Expenses	14,954.69	18,246.39	(5,056.20)	(14,728.84)
	Outside Giving	35,500	18,600	35,500	40,000
	% of Income	8.91%	5.97%	10.11%	10.00%
	% of Total Spend	9.25%	6.34%	9.97%	9.64%

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Litany

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

God has called us for such a time as this.

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

God has called us for such a time as this.

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

God has called us for such a time as this.

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

God has called us for such a time as this.

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

You have called us for such a time as this.

God of the Fertile Fields

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

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

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

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

All Creation Sings #1063

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

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

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

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

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

ANNUAL REPORT

2021