



ANNUAL REPORT

2020



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



A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

Building up the body of Christ together,

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

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

LITANY

L. O God of all power and love ...

C. ... we give thanks for your unfailing presence.

L. O God of all power and love, we give thanks ...

C. ... for the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.

L. O God of all power and love ...

C. ... we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask you ...

C. ... to revive us to live as Christ's body in the world.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask to be ...

C. ... a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask you to be with us ...

C. ... wherever and however we gather. Unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Build Us Up, Lord

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

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

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

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

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

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

Refrain

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

word to spread the news of your Son!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Annual Meeting Agenda
January 24, 2021
Atonement Lutheran Church
St. Cloud, MN

- 1) **Call to order**
- 2) **Devotions**
- 3) **Approval of 2020 Congregational Meeting Minutes**
- 4) **Pastoral Reports**
- 5) **President's Report**
- 6) **Treasurer's Report and Approval of 2021 Budget**
- 7) **Presentation and Election of 2021 Church Council**
- 8) **Old Business**
- 9) **Approval and Adoption of updated Constitution as previously submitted at the 2020 Congregational meeting. If you have any questions, please email Don Stello at: donstello@cloudnet.com**
- 10) **New Business**
- 11) **New President's Comments**
- 12) **Closing Prayer**
- 13) **Adjournment**

Note: Any member who has a specific issue for the 2021 Annual meeting is asked to submit a written request to Dennis Plahn, for review by the Executive Council. Please email Dennis Plahn at daplahn@charter.net

**Atonement Lutheran Church
2020 Atonement Annual Meeting
Jan 26, 2020**

Members present 110

Call to order – President Angie Faundeen

Pastor Tim led in opening prayer

Council Minutes from 2019 Annual Meeting – approved Chris Will – 2nd Jean Klosowski

President Report – Angie Faundeen – very good year – no additional meetings needed – let's all try to say yes to leadership roles in the church

Pastor John – we need to continue to grow
Wednesday night Sunday School and Worship are very well attended – very successful

Pastor Tim – very happy working here with Pastor John – we need to connect the adults with youth through mentoring projects – he would like to see more of a variety of services with more music and more diversity – would like to see more woman involved with worship – invite your neighbors to church

Treasurer Report – Dale Rogholt – we had a very good year – Atonement is in very good shape financially - report accepted Marcus Anderson – 2nd Greg Lingl
Old business – By-laws amendment change related to the staff support committee from 2019 minutes – “The committee shall consist of 6 members each serving 3-year terms. The Term of 2 members will end each year, but member may serve 2 consecutive terms.”
Approved Kathy Mathies – 2nd Karen Vann

Election of Church Council – Marcus Anderson

President – Dennis Plahn

Vice President – Jennifer Lamberg

Secretary – Paulette Nathe

Treasurer/Finance – Denise Boock

Fellowship Ministry – Scott Larson (1st year of 2-year term)

Worship Ministry – Chris Wills (1st year of 2-year term)

Evangelism Ministry – Tom Glieden (2nd year of 2-year term)

Children's Ministry – Kyle and Angie Janni (2nd year of 2-year term)

Youth Ministry – Chuck Lingl (2nd year of 2-year term)

Adult Ministry – not yet confirmed

Property Ministry – Arlene Omlid & Don Stello (1st year of 2-year term)

Stewardship Ministry – Jason Anhorn (2nd year of 2-year term)

Mission Ministry – Lucy Thomas (2nd year of 2-year term)

Youth Representative – Dylan Boock

Luther Crest Board – Tolly and Karen Vollen, Bill and Donna Buckner, and Larry Hanson

Synod Reps: Gabin Gitangwa and Astrid Namona, Angie and Bob Faundeen

Gustavus Adolphus Reps: Dave and Jeanne Erickson

Nominating Committee: Angie Faundeen, Sheila Molde, Sally Reichert, Marcus Anderson, Open, Open

Pastor John Gabrielson

Pastor Tim Lindhorst

Motion to approve the new council – Karen Vann – 2nd Sheila Molde

New Business – per Don Stello the following changes were made to the constitution – and approved by the Synod

section C12.05, item c.

It states: “The congregation council may enter into contracts of up to _____ for items not included in the budget. “

Executive Council discussion: This is addressing items such as the roof repair that we addressed in the past year. These items were not in the budget but will not require an outside loan to be covered.

Executive Council recommendation: 10 percent of the approved annual budget.

section C12.05, item d.

It states: “The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may not incur obligations of more than in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by a Congregation Meeting...”

Executive Council discussion: This is referencing the council taking on additional debt/loan obligations prior to congregation approval.

Executive Council recommendation: Obligations/loans greater than 10% of the anticipated receipts would require a congregation meeting to garner approval.

Vote to approve these changes will take place at the 2021 Annual Meeting

Karen Vann – preschool to be closing after 22 years of operation due to low enrollment – May 16, 2020 will have a celebration of the 22 years of success – motto has always been “Learn to Love – Love to Learn”

Dale Thompson – how much do people outside of Atonement pay to use our kitchen – Dale will need to check with Celia Young the church secretary for the answer
Dale will not support the ELCA giving sanctuary to illegal immigrants – he opposes giving them any money.

New President – Dennis Plahn – not uniform but united

Thank you to the old council people and welcome to the new

Pastor John – closing prayer

Meeting adjourned – Jean Klosowski – 2nd Marcus Anderson –



Nominating Committee Report
Nominees for Atonement Lutheran Church Council & Elected Positions 2021

President – Jennifer Lamberg

Vice President – Karen Vann

Secretary – Sheila Molde (1st year of two-year term)

Treasurer/Finance – Denise Boock (2nd year of two-year term)

Fellowship Ministry – Scott Larson (2nd year of two-year term)

Worship Ministry – Chris Wills (2nd year of two-year term)

Evangelism Ministry – Ray Dennis (1st year of two-year term)

Children's Ministry – **Not Yet Confirmed**

Youth Ministry – Adam Bauer (1st year of two-year term)

Adult Ministry – Jean Klosowski (1st year of two-year term)

Property Ministry – Arlene Omlid & Don Stello (2nd year of 2nd two-year term)

Stewardship Ministry – **Not Yet Confirmed**

Mission Ministry – Kris Boyle (1st year of two-year term)

Youth Representative – Dylan Boock

LutherCrest Board: Tolly and Karen Vollen, Marcus and Marilyn Anderson, and Larry Hanson

Synod Reps: Gabin Gitangwa and Astrid Mamona, Angie & Bob Faundeen

Gustavus Adolphus Reps: Dave and Jeanne Erickson

Nominating Committee: Angie Faundeen, Sheila Molde, Sally Reichert, Marcus Anderson, Dennis Plahn, Open

Legacy Committee: Patrick Mastin, Karen Vollen, Joyce Raetz, Kay Josephs, John Scott Johnson

Pastor John Gabrielson

Pastor Tim Lindhorst



Annual Meeting
President's Report

My first Council meeting, as your President, was at church on February 27th, 2020. Agenda items included discussions about Spirit Trek, a weekly breakfast for our high school students and re-purposing the preschool rooms.

By mid-March, the Covid-19 pandemic was upon us. The Council was faced with an unanticipated multitude of decisions in trying to further Christ's mission in balance with our changing environment. The Council, rather than meet in person at church, started meeting via Zoom.

On March 16th, the Council unanimously agreed that the prudent and loving thing to do was to suspend all public gatherings at Atonement including worship. While an online service was started, in-person services would remain suspended for approximately three months.

Anticipating difficult and challenging times ahead, in early April, a forgivable loan application, as provided in the Coronavirus Stimulus Package, was submitted. By mid-April, a loan in the amount of \$50,300 was received. This loan was recently forgiven.

After careful planning and in compliance with safety protocols, in-person services resumed in June with a service on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. This worship schedule continues to the present. A weekly email now includes not only information previously printed in the weekly bulletin, but also a video of the Wednesday evening service. An upgrade to the sound system in the sanctuary had also been completed, enhancing our on-line worship experience. Other activities at church, for members and our guests, have also slowly resumed.

For some of our committees, there were new challenges. For example, Worship Committee adopted Covid protocols into our worship services and Mission Committee responded to changing needs within our St. Cloud community. Other committees were able to move forward with many of their original plans. Property Committee was able to complete several projects including improvements to the parking lot, roof repairs and mechanical upgrades. Other committees were less able to do their work. For example, due to Covid limitations, Fellowship Committee was unable to schedule any events.

In our Pastors' annual report from last year, Pastors Jon and Tim reminded us that we need not be the same, that we need not be uniform. But what we should be is united. Although their message was delivered last year, it remains relevant today. It is my prayer that our Atonement family, as we reach up to God and out to our community, can grow in our unity.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank the 2020 Church Council for their support and faithfulness as they worked to discern and deliver God's message to our Atonement family. On behalf of our new Council, I ask for your prayers and support.

Pastors' Annual Report

There's a good chance that if you ask someone, they'll tell you that 2020 was rotten for most people in the world. Rotten to the core. People are struggling with isolation, kids schooling from home, hospitals are overwhelmed, etc. It's been a challenging year to say the least. This brings to mind, a favorite quote from *Fellowship of the Ring*, speaking of the rise of evil in the form of Sauron.



the rise of evil in the form of Sauron.

I wish it need not have happened in my time, said Frodo. So do I, said Gandalf, and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.'"

Not one person we know hasn't been impacted by COVID, whether they caught it, had a relative that did, or knows a person working in health care. Some of us lost friends and family. Your pastors have led funerals that included only family members, so saying goodbye has been sadly

inadequate. For many people, there was a significant financial impact, job loss, or other events that just plain hurt.

Early on in the pandemic when COVID hit us, we were in shock, scrambling to adapt. We feel fortunate that we had each other to help figure-out how to do stuff. The generosity of the congregation shined as several members stepped-up their giving in anticipation of difficult times ahead. Your pastors became amateur audio/video techies. The congregation was patient and we adapted and improved. The youth scrambled and adapted. Worship continued. We recovered and we'll live to keep serving the community.

In aviation, there's an old adage: **Rule One: Fly the airplane**. You will either hit the ground hard, which is not preferable, or hit the ground soft: even bumpy landings are good. Worrying about what will happen prevents you from working on the problem right in front of you. You can minimize risk and do everything right, but in the end, you can only control your own actions.

For several months, we flew the airplane, and did everything we could do to keep flying. At some point, the clouds parted, and we were in good shape, thanks to your love, generosity and patience. In fact, the things you did to help keep us aloft during the storm are going to continue moving forward, since they were good things to do even in good weather (we're just beginning to use new technology for worship!). We've met the challenge and we can see a new and exciting future in 2021.

We hope that whatever your trials were in 2020, they will not cripple your spirit. And 2021? Who knows. We're optimistic that we'll all keep finding ways to fly the plane, we just gotta keep going. And we know that we are not alone in these efforts. At the close of Matthew's gospel, Jesus promises the disciples: "I will be with you always, to the end of the age" (Mt 28.20b NRSV). Yesterday, today, and tomorrow are all included in "always" no matter what troubles or turbulence we face.



Committee Report

Adult Education Committee

The Adult Education Committee provided review of several topics in 2020. In January through mid-February we presented a study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. From mid-February through mid-March Pastors Tim and John led several sessions of the David Lose series, "Making Sense of the Cross."

Due to COVID19 in person church services were put on hold in mid-March. Modified in person church services resumed in June but fellowship hall activities, including coffee and Adult Education, did not.

The Adult Education Committee began planning the fall/winter offerings in August by meeting through Zoom. In October Adult Education resumed via Zoom on Sunday mornings. In October and November, Jan Nairn presented a series exploring "What Are We Doing When We Worship?" including sessions on: "What's Happening When We Sing Hymns?", "What Are We Actually Saying When We Say the Lord's Prayer?", and "Grace

Happens! The Liturgy, Communion, and Baptism.” Jan also presented “Themes and Symbols of Advent.”

In December, we used Zoom to watch short videos together followed by group discussion. The videos, presented by Rob Bell in the Noom series, were “Trees,” “Noise,” and “Bullhorn. The Zoom format worked well and allowed a comfortable forum for group discussion. To end the year, Jan and Robert Nairn presented, “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.” Many of the Zoom presentations were recorded and are available on the ALC website.

Jean Klosowski



Property Committee

The Property Committee were able to complete several smaller maintenance an repair projects during the year and kept the church grounds in clean and well kept condition. We also completed some rather major projects during the year.

A new high efficiency furnace in the office basement replaced the 28 year old troublesome furnace. The parking lot was seal coated and restriped. And we are in the process of completing a new electronic keying system that will make the church much more secure.

We would like to thank the following committee members for their excellent hard work and diligence: Bob Defries, Gary Heltemes, Greg Lingl, Kathy Matthies Jim Page, John Pflipsen, Beth Schramm, and Alan Scofield

Arlene Omlid Co chair
Don Stello Co Chair



Missions Committee

Assisting chairperson Lucy Thomas were Marcus Anderson, Pat Buttweiler, Karla Franke, Kris Lehman, Shelley Meyer, Fred Sandal, and Karen Vollen.

Contributions to **Ministry of the Month** remained strong in the Covid-19 pandemic. The Ministry of the Month was determined in late 2019 by the Missions Committee. Selections included:

January Bible Camp Scholarships

February Place of Hope

March Minnesota Food Share (contributions are matched) via Salvation Army & Catholic Charities

April Terebinth Refuge

May Habitat for Humanity in Central Minnesota

June The Beautiful Mind Project

July School Supplies for Madison and North Junior High Schools

August LUMIN (Lutheran Campus Ministry)

September Pathways 4 Youth

October Lutheran Social Services

November ELCA World Hunger

December Diapers collection

In addition, the Missions Committee determined the following budget amounts:

Anna Marie's Alliance	\$500
Pine Ridge Energy Assistance	\$500
Luther Crest	\$3000
Outside Ministries, Local & Global	\$1500 (including 3 checks to Homeless Helping Homeless totaling \$1000)
Sunbeam Boys Home, Jamaica	\$6000

There were 2 items "tacked on" to the Missions budget, over which the committee had no control, which include the Synod's Great River Conference (\$500) and the Southwest Minnesota Synod of \$26,496 (\$2208 monthly).

An unplanned (due to Coronavirus pandemic) successful project undertaken was the replacement of the Little Free Library with the Little Free Pantry. Atonement neighbor Bill Spain disinfected its door and latch daily, and Pat, Fred, Lucy and congregation members kept it stocked with food. Sub-freezing temperatures caused return to the Little Free Library. Thanks to all who contributed food.

The FACT Food Pantry project was undertaken outside of Missions Committee auspices. Much food and funds were contributed for hungry persons.



Stewardship Committee

In 2020, your Stewardship committee had high hopes. Working with our office staff, we found ways to expand options for electronic giving through Realm, saved money (you can fill this in accurately, Celia; I don't have it) by switching envelope vendors, and began to lay the groundwork for a more comprehensive financial education and stewardship ministry to our young adults and families. Then the CoVid (COVID)-19 pandemic hit. This could have been a financial disaster for Atonement, as it has been for families, businesses, government, and many congregations. Instead, the generosity and faithfulness of Atonement's members - both those who pledge and those who do not - have been evident throughout 2020. Despite a difficult 2nd quarter, in which we were obligated to suspend in person worship due to the pandemic and giving declined more than 20% relative to 2019, Atonement came very near to reaching our giving target for 2020. This is remarkable! And we are grateful. Generosity is a gift of the Spirit, and we are blessed with that gift here.

As we enter 2021, your stewardship team invites you to consider how you can continue to support the mission and ministry of your congregation. Your giving makes our

congregation's efforts to share the Good News of Jesus and serve our God and neighbors possible.



Worship Committee

Like almost everyone else, the worship committee had other plans for 2020, but then COVID happened. Following the pandemic, the committee spent a significant amount of time developing and providing recommendations to the pastors for remote worship. Starting in April, the majority of the committee's time has been focused on providing recommendations and developing guidelines for in person worship and then modifying those recommendations and guidelines. We also spent a considerable amount of time planning and preparing for our Christmas Eve service at the Waite Park Convention Center.

I am pleased to report, that the Church has been open for in person worship twice a week since June 14, 2020. During that time, there have not been any instances in which COVID19 has been transmitted from one worship participant to another. And the guidelines that the Committee developed have been used by at least half a dozen other churches so that they can reopen their doors.

I would like to thank Kristin Vann, Bill Kreul, Deb Anderson, Julie Lingl, and Alexis Engels for all of their hard work over the last year. I'm not sure what their expectation was in terms of a time commitment when they agreed to be on the worship committee, but it was certainly more than I had anticipated. Their dedication and hard work is appreciated. I would also like to thank Pastor Tim, Pastor John, Marcia Handahl, and Eric Vollen for their support over the past year. As the calendar turns to 2021, I am looking forward to the success of the vaccination program, fully reopening the church, and turning our attention to something other than COVID.



Youth & Children's Committee

Atonement is fortunate to have among us faithful adults who are committed to keeping the baptismal promises they made to their children and to God, but 2020 was a challenging year not just for Youth and Children's Ministries, but for all of our youth, children, and those who care for them. In early 2020 our Youth and Children's Ministry teams continued to grow into a family-directed ministry. Wednesday evening programming - notably Wednesday School and Spirit Trek, children's choir, and child & youth participation in worship - continued to grow as the year began. Parents of young children (grade 5 and below) did a phenomenal job organizing teaching schedules for both Sunday and Wednesday faith formation. Other adults led Spirit Trek groups and mentored youth during Lent. We had plans for and parent and student leadership of a summer mission trip for youth, day camp and VBS for younger children, and an eye cast ahead to the 2021 ELCA National Youth Gathering.

Then in March of that year, the pandemic forced Atonement to suspend in-person faith formation in the spring and eventually cancel VBS and youth events over the summer. We

experimented with Zoom during that time, but found interest to be low among children and youth.

Recognizing that Fall program launch would be challenging in light of the ongoing pandemic, and in response to the requests from parents for additional staff support, Council approved the hiring of a part time program administrator in the summer of 2020. Using a job description initially prepared by the Children's Ministry committee, the pastors advertised and interviewed for this position, which they offered to a highly qualified candidate who declined for family reasons. Of three additional candidates, none attended their scheduled in-person or Zoom interview; only one of these called ahead to cancel. We plan to build this position, or a version of it, into our post-pandemic staffing model.

In the absence of additional staff, and anticipating a highly disrupted program year in which parents in particular would be stretched very thin by competing demands on time from work, distance-learning, and safety measures required during a pandemic, your pastors cooperated with the Youth and Children's Ministry teams to provide three(3) faith formation options to Youth and Children:

1. Weekly at-home/Online downloadable lessons and crafts through SundaySchoolWorks, a web-based resource that follows the Revised Common Lectionary
2. Weekly in-person, covid-safe Sunday school using the same materials as the at-home/online cohort.
3. A project-based resource for families of any age to learn and practice key elements and concepts of the faith designed by a team of Atonement members who have been involved in our Youth and Children's Ministries for years and/or are former educators of grades pre-k through 12.

In addition to these core offerings, the pastors are available for (almost) weekly zooms with kids who have questions about the different curricula and volunteers have worked to organize a pen-pal ministry and covid-safe in-person service projects following worship once per month. The pen-pal ministry has hit some roadblocks, but we hope to get it launched soon. In-person service projects - and a covid-safe Trunk'r'Treat organized by Atonement families for our neighbors and our members - were and continue to be phenomenal successes. Engagement with 'core' offerings, however, has been mixed. Our congregation's parents, youth, and children are, by and large, 'Zoomed-out' and exhausted and only halfway through the school/program year.

Moving into 2021, we ask that the congregation as a whole hold in their hearts our families with children of any age and consider how we can best keep the promises that we make as a congregation when children are baptized into our congregation "to support...and pray for them in their new life in Christ" (ELW p. 228). That sounds like a simple pair of promises, to support and pray for someone, or a group of someone's, but simple doesn't mean unimportant or easy. We want to be ready to resume or pick up new and creative ways of raising our kids as disciples of Christ, and we believe that with your prayers, support, and help we will.

The purpose of the Finance Committee is to oversee the finances and financial stewardship of Atonement Lutheran Church in accordance with the mission, values, and ministry of the congregation. We reviewed and made our recommendations for the 2021 Financial Plan. Our goal is to recommend a realistic and reasonable budget that is parallel to the congregation's mission.

Along with the Executive Committee and Church Council, we are hereby submitting the following budget for approval by the Congregation.

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH 2021 BUDGET PROPOSAL

	2020 Approved Budget	2021 Proposed Budget	change (+/-)
Total Giving	\$ 538,553	\$533,127	\$ (5,426)
Administrative	\$ 54,994	\$50,600	\$ (4,394)
Adult Ministry	\$ 2,000	\$2,000	\$ -
Children's Ministry	\$ 4,500	\$3,500	\$ (1,000)
Debt Service	\$ 48,264	\$48,264	\$ -
Fellowship	\$ 1,500	\$1,500	\$ -
Mission Ministry	\$ 38,496	\$38,542	\$ 46
Payroll	\$ 294,883	\$296,221	\$ 1,338
Property Expense	\$ 71,117	\$72,000	\$ 884
Stewardship Ministry	\$ 3,000	\$3,000	\$ -
Worship	\$ 9,550	\$9,500	\$ (50)
Youth Ministry	\$ 9,250	\$7,000	\$ (2,250)
Evangelism	\$ 1,000	\$1,000	\$ -
Total Cash Outlay	\$ 538,553	\$533,127	\$ (5,426)

Finance Report

	2019		2020
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Total Receipts	\$543,310.90	\$538,554.00	\$516,411.31

	2019		2020
	<u>Cash Outlay</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Administrative	\$ 53,100.96	\$54,994.00	\$41,910.04
Adult Ministry	\$ 855.87	\$2,000.00	\$312.74
Children's Ministry	\$ 2,354.34	\$4,500.00	\$899.09
Debt Service	\$ 48,264.00	\$48,264.00	\$48,264.00
Fellowship	\$ 1,659.86	\$1,500.00	\$1,096.72
Mission Ministry	\$ 36,316.11	\$38,496.00	\$34,996.00
Payroll	\$ 269,561.72	\$294,883.00	\$276,540.49
Property Expense	\$ 73,022.23	\$71,117.00	\$70,002.31
Stewardship Ministry	\$ 2,138.44	\$3,000.00	\$926.49
Worship	\$ 12,358.48	\$9,550.00	\$10,442.55
Youth Ministry	\$ 5,976.08	\$9,250.00	\$569.21
Mission of the Month	\$16,317.17		\$3,339.50
Evangelism	\$377.15	\$1,000.00	\$320.00
	\$ 522,302.41	\$538,554.00	\$489,619.14

This has been an unusual year! With all of the uncertainty in the world, we were blessed with your giving. Our checking account balance at the end of 2020 was \$265,915.62, of which \$91,049.55 were Designated/Restricted funds, and \$173,866.07 was Unrestricted. Due to the pandemic, the government's CARES Act allowed us to apply for the Payment Protection Program which was meant to help meet payroll expenses. Our church was approved for \$50,300. The forgiveness application was submitted in November and in December we were notified that the SBA had forgiven our loan. The \$50,300 is included in our checking account balance.

Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2020

Current Assets

Bremer Checking (Unrestricted)	\$173,866.07
Bremer Checking (Restricted)	<u>\$91,049.55</u>

Total Current Assets \$264,915.62

Fixed Asset

Building and Property	<u>\$4,418,956.17</u>
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Total Assets \$4,683,871.79

Current Liabilities

Account Payable	\$4,022.00
Federal Payroll Taxes Payable	\$1,508.97
State Payroll Taxes Payable	<u>\$315.38</u>

Total Current Liabilities \$5,846.35

Long Term Liabilities

Thrivent Mortgage Note	<u>\$439,443.93</u>
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Total Liabilities \$445,290.28

Total Equity \$4,238,581.51



Our Atonement Legacy Endowment Fund

Established in 2016, the Atonement Legacy Fund's purpose is to grow a sustainable source of income to enhance the outreach ministry and sustain the facilities of Atonement Lutheran Church. Three areas have been designated for the distribution of these monies:

- Christian Education & Scholarship
- New Ministries
- Capital Improvements

*comments taken from the brochure Our Atonement Legacy Fund

As of 9-30-2020, the market value of the Legacy Endowment Fund was \$46,917.76

Christian Education & Scholarship: In 2019, higher education scholarships were awarded to four Atonement students of \$500.00 each, with a matching \$500.00 from their education institution. Total distribution was \$2,000.00.

New Ministries: In 2020, The Legacy fund supported the Youth Group Community Project by awarding them \$766.00 for their Homeless Helping Homeless personal hygiene bags.

The Atonement Legacy Fund is a wonderful opportunity for members to make a lasting contribution in the future of our church and we invite you to learn more on how you can make a difference. A brochure to broaden your understanding of the Legacy Committee has been developed and is available at the Welcome Table. Additionally, please feel free to contact a Legacy Committee member for information.

The Legacy Committee,

Red Mastin
Joyce Raetz
Karen Vollen



New Business

Our constitution was last updated in 2012. Since then there have been three Church Wide Assemblies, in 2013, 2016, and 2019. Part of the duties of the delegates to the assembly are to review and make changes to the church wide constitution that they feel are appropriate. Each congregation of the ELCA must change their constitution to correspond to the church wide constitution each time it is updated. Most of the changes are just word or phrase changes.

In the summer of 2019 a committee review and made the necessary changes to our constitution to correspond with the new church wide constitution. Those changes were approved by our church council and send to the Southwest Minnesota Synod. The revised constitution was also approved by the Synod.

Don Stello