



The Acorn

Quarterly Newsletter of Emanuel's Lutheran Church

December 2020

Here are some updates from Pastor Marcus and Council President Susan Yeatts about our church and day school, their activities, and our ministry from this past quarter! We hope these updates offer you a connection to what is happening, even though we are distanced each other.

2nd Floor Renovation, Church Campus: Day School Expansion

Many events, work, and change have taken place on the 2nd floor of our church for many years and summer 2020 has been no exception. Under the incredible guidance of our Property Stewards, the spaces we once knew as the offices of the Retired Volunteer Senior Program, the Nursery, the Flower Closet, and our Joy Classroom, have been transformed into day school classrooms and additional storage, welcoming kindergarten back onto our campus after many years of hiatus. These renovations, split 50-50 in total cost with the Day School, comprised of the following: brand new, fire-rated doors and windows along the hallway corridor, fire retardant paint on the walls and ceiling of the hallways, as well as inside each classroom, bathroom, and subsequent closet, brand new LED hallway lighting, fire dampers to aid in the flow of air to the return air system. The total cost of the project is \$21,757.44 and was categorized under the approved 2020 budget line item of "Major Repairs/Renovations." Remember, this cost was shared 50-50 with the Day School. This large line item, which is included in every year's budget, allows the Council to move forward on repair or renovation projects without the need for congregational meetings to increase the budget; A/C repair and A/C unit purchases and roof repairs and replacement have also been included under this line item in previous years. These costs, while large, would have been near double had it not been for the countless hours of donated volunteer time, donated materials, and donated skills by our Property Stewards, Day School and Church staff, their families, and local Seguin contractors all willing to aid in our efforts. In addition to the kindergarten class, this expansion has allowed our Day School to begin an infant care program, which currently has 5 infants enrolled – two of which are church members, and begin a stair step program to teach, equip, and educate children at every development age in between. Renovations continue within the current Day School building, the Ark as it is being affectionately called, as new paint and floors transform this seasoned building. All these continued project costs are being covered by the Day School's annual budget.

2021 Stewardship Statements of Intent:

Following an incredible year of giving and accomplishment in 2019, the Stewardship Team looked to 2020 to be even better. We adopted Ministry Initiatives to carry our collective ministry to new heights by investing in our church and community youth, our campus' security, and our facilities. We set a goal of receiving 150 Statements of Intent as 2019 ended and we met that goal, capitalizing on a \$10,000 challenge gift given by one of our members. As the year rolled over and 2020 began, we began working on implementing the Ministry Initiatives but ran into the ministry slowing COVID-19 shutdowns. For almost 30 straight weeks, our congregation gathered online or via the radio for worship, and we have, unfortunately, had to make the step back to this type of worship. We embraced new practices of sharing Holy Communion at home versus within the sanctuary and we found new talents, such as being able to Zoom and work remotely. All the while our ministry continued because of you. Your financial gifts and pledges allowed benevolence giving for the Christian Cupboard, Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, Guadalupe Valley Christian Counseling Center, Southwestern Texas Synod, our missionaries in Kosovo, TruLight 127 Foster Agency, Cross Trails Ministry, Lutheran Seminary Program of the Southwest, our seminarian, and Communities in Schools within Seguin ISD to continue. Your continued gifts and offerings also kept the lights on, the A/C running, supported staff salaries and benefits, and maintained an active building for outside renting organizations and ministry groups in uncertain times. Now, as we look to 2021, Statements of Intent have been mailed out as we look to embrace next year's ministry, knowing that COVID is still deeply impacting everyone. The letters include a suggested giving amount based on what you have given this year. If there was nothing of record showing, a suggested amount of \$10 was offered. Knowing that our financial gifts are extremely personal and should include prayer and discernment, it was our intent offer suggestions, not rigid "musts." Please do what is best for you and your family and we will do amazing things, by the grace of God, in 2021!

Payroll Protection Program, Small Business Administration Loan:

In April, we received a loan from the Small Business Administration as a part of the Federal Government's CARES Act, "Payroll Protection Program." Our loan, considering all the salaries and benefits for our church and day school staff, totaled \$108,400. These funds covered 5 payroll periods for all our staff in full; during this time our staff were being paid every two weeks. If you were to look at our financial statements, you would notice that the loan is not included as a source of income for the church and day school. This is per the guidance of Randy Walker, our CPA and auditor, because the loan is set to be completely forgiven. Our forgiveness paperwork was submitted October 26th showing we met every criterion required for complete forgiveness however, we have not been notified of a ruling. First United Bank here in Seguin is managing our loan and is keeping our Council updated, specifically Susan and Keith, with monthly emails and notices of government actions. Our

Window World: 95 Brand New Windows

Another project that was completed while we have been away, and you may remember some of the details, is that of our 95, brand-new windows. Thanks to an anonymous donor, and memorials given in honor of one of our members, \$65,000 worth of windows were installed at no impact to our operating budget. Window World, out of New Braunfels and under the

guidance of our Property Stewards, removed and installed the windows throughout our building. These included every window, but not the stained-glass windows, on every floor. They are extremely energy efficient, with frames that almost blend completely into the brick, and can slide open, from either side, should an office or room want fresh air. A close eye on this and next quarter's electric bills ought to show us just how much saving these windows are providing our church. The manufacturers and installers at Window World have reported savings, on other buildings, as high as 33%. Some final touches up, by Window World, will be taking place over the final weeks of the year, including the install and replacement of a few window screens and caulking seams where the frame meets the brick. These renovations were to be included in future phases of our master plan renovation projects, but we now celebrate their completion and look forward to tackling other projects in the windows' place.

Expense/Income Reporting and Worship Attendance (September to November)

Below are the monthly comparisons from 2019 to 2020 regarding our monthly income and expenses. Additionally, our weekly attendance is also included, with analytics from Facebook and YouTube, to give you a broad vision of who engages our services on other platforms. (Currently, we do not have an ability to report who all engages our weekly radio broadcasts.)

In-person Worship:

9-27 (On the lawn): 85
10-4: 84
10-11: 80
10-18: 102
10-25: 103
11-1: 93
11-8: 112
11-15: 71

Facebook:

Total Page Likes – 532
Average Weekly Reach - 1122
(Number of people who had any content from our Page or about our Page enter their screen.)
Average Weekly Video Views – 470
(Number of times videos have been viewed for more than 3 seconds.)
Average Daily Page Views – 663
(Number of times people saw any content about our Page at least once per day.)

YouTube:

Total Channel Subscribers – 69
(Number of people who see our videos posted on their home YouTube page.)
Total Views – 805
(Number of times videos were viewed for any length of time.)
Total Watch Time – 124.3 hours
(Amount of time viewers watched posted videos.)

Income & Expense Comparison

11/1-11/30/2019
Offering \$29,971.96
Expenses \$51,729.41

11/1-11/30/2020
Offering \$30,952.00
Expenses \$53,525.91