



Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church

2020 Annual Report

131st Annual Meeting

January 31, 2021

Bishop Lull's Annual Report to Congregations January 2021

“We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.”
(paraphrase of Philippians 4:13)

Dear Partners in Ministry,

2020 has certainly been the strangest and most challenging year for us as a synod—for congregations, specialized ministries, and institutions—and for each of you. Thanks be to God, who has strengthened, uplifted, and sustained us during this year of a global pandemic, and important learnings amid social unrest.



I am cheered by the immediate response made by congregations across this synod when we needed to stop gathering in person in early March. From the start you have shown respect for the wisdom of Governor Tim Walz and our public health experts. You pulled together informed lay leaders and community representatives to guide your rostered ministers in crafting a plan for safe reopening and use of your building. Within days, worship planners found new ways to bring the Gospel to a dispersed congregation through mailings, recorded services, live-streamed worship and Zoom. When the weather and new state guidelines allowed gatherings in small numbers, you moved worship outdoors to your parking lots and side yards or used registration, masks and hand washing to ensure that your congregation would not become a hotspot for spreading COVID-19. Thank you.

With courage, you as people of faith faced the tough challenge of offering pastoral care to those who were ill and to the dying. We learned afresh how much a phone call can mean and how Zoom can draw family and friends together in times of grief. So many funeral services had to be postponed or turned into small-size gatherings. Let us commit to remembering the saints we have entrusted to God this past year and find new ways to mark anniversaries when we are able to gather in person again.

When the pandemic wanes we will have much learning to share from this past year about what it means to be a community of faith in the twenty-first century. There will be innovations to keep and cherished practices to reclaim. I look forward to learning with you, especially about how the good news of God's grace and forgiveness is spoken to us through God's word and the sacraments.

In 2020, the synod played a unique role in convening congregational leaders amid the pandemic. We hosted Zoom conversations on public health mandates, PPP loans for small businesses, remote congregational meetings, and stewardship of financial resources. I thank Carol Hood, synod vice president; David Laden, synod treasurer; and Sarah Crippen, synod attorney; for helping with many of those sessions.

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2020 Annual Report

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John Hierlinger, Senior Pastor
2020 Annual Report



Grace and peace be to you, good and faithful servant. Our lives have been enriched by the Christmas celebration and all the wonderful events that take place each year, as we celebrate the miraculous gift God sent into this world, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A year ago I asked these questions to you in my annual report to the congregation:

What will 2020 have in store?

What is God calling us to this next year?

What will we celebrate next year?

None of us reading this could have fully anticipated all that 2020 had in store for us both as a congregation, state and nation. I am fully aware that we will need continued space to digest all that unfolding around us with the pandemic. This doesn't even include those of you who have loved one dies,

having to work to figure out what it means to honor those loved ones when our regular routine wasn't possible. Hard on so many levels.

At the same time, as I reflect on 2020 I also marvel at the ways Gustavus Adolphus discovered new ways of being the church, when our building was closed and we weren't able to be together. If nothing else we have been reminded of something we have known all along-the church is the building, it never was nor will it ever be. The church is YOU, the ways you live out your faith in daily life, continuing to search for new ways to share the love of Jesus your community.

I admire the ways you have shown up for each other. Phone calls are being made. Cards are being sent. Groceries are being purchased. Prescriptions are being picked up and dropped off. I know Norinne and Janice Hobbs, who don't have access to the internet at home talk with Larry and Maggie Kahler every Sunday as they go to church together, as the Kahlers play our livestream service over the phone for the Hobbs.

Thank you to each of you for being the church for one another! Again and again you showed up with love and care for your neighbor, and this is what being GA is all about.

2020 was also the year we said goodbye to our beloved Director of Worship and Music, Dr. Jerry Brakke as he retired after 47 years of ministry and service at Gustavus Adolphus. I feel so fortunate to have worked with such a talented person who is committed to the church and our worship experiences. Of course, we weren't able to celebrate his ministry the way that we would want to, however, once we are able to be together again in person, we are working on ways to do just that.

Jerry, thank you for your servant heart and your willingness to continue to share your God given gifts with our congregation. Thank you for being a friend in ministry and the ways you taught me.

As we said goodbye to Jerry, we then began to pray who would God send to us as our new Director of Worship and Music. God has blessed our congregation once again with a fantastic, talented person-Andrew Parr. What a gift Andrew has been to Gustavus, having to start a new role without being able to lead worship in the ways we most typically do. Instead we figured out drive-in worship together in addition to live-stream worship services. I am grateful for Andrew and the way God has answered our prayers.

2020 was a year that Maggie Kidnie had plans to retire, little did she know, and us as well, that she would be back after a three-month retirement. I am so grateful for Maggie's willingness to step right back in her role and her willingness to stay with us these past 10 months. Maggie has plans to reenter retirement late spring of 2021, but until then we will take full advantage of her great knowledge and insights!

In addition to Andrew, Jerry and Maggie, I want to thank Pastor Amanda, Sherrie, Rob, Judy, Jerry, Kevin and Andy for the work they did this last year as we were given an opportunity to reimagine ministry in the midst of the pandemic. Each of them have stepped up, been flexible willing to learn new ways to be the church. I am so grateful to call these people coworkers and friends.

Finally, to each and every one of you from Gustavus Adolphus' congregation, I want to thank you. So many of you have taken the time to reach out with words of encouragement for us as a staff and words of support this past year. You will never fully understand how thankful we all are for you sharing these words in the midst of a difficult year. You truly have been the church to us, your staff.

Your generosity and financial support remained at a very high level this past year and I can't thank you enough. It speaks volumes of your commitment to God, your faith and your church. Gustavus is in the place we are because of you and the ways you have supported your church. Thank you!

Friends in Christ, we are making it. We still are unsure when we will be able to be back together for in-person activities, but much closer today than we were a year ago. We continue to seek the ways God will use us in our community as agents of change. If nothing else we have proven to ourselves that our sense of creativity and imagination to be the church is there and we are ready to explore all that awaits us.

I am grateful for your support, trust and support. You are making a difference in my life and even more importantly in the world!

Thanks be to God for you and our church Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church!

Pastor John Hierlinger

Amanda Simons Associate Pastor
2020 Annual Report

Greetings! 2020 was a year for the history books. We began this year with high hopes for our shared ministry life together - the continual growth and development of Open Table and Wednesday nights with our neighborhood, the upcoming ambassador visit to Kiponzelo and Igangindungu'u in Tanzania, the implementation of our strategic plan, and deepening of relationships with each other and our local community. While some of our hopes were put to the wayside for the time being, many of our hopes lived on in different ways than we imagined.



Our abiding devotion to love of God and love of neighbor grounded us during this time of uncertainty. We, like so many other faithful congregations, closed our facility and have been worshiping together through pre-recorded, live streamed, and parking lot worship services. We have maintained relationships through phone calls, Zoom meetings, text messaging, and letter writing. We have continued to follow Jesus to the best of our ability as our worlds have narrowed to our homes, the grocery store, and the workplace for those who are essential workers. We wear masks and physical distance in order to protect ourselves and neighbor from the spread and impact of this novel virus. We offer our gifts in the capacities that we can and continue to care for those who are most vulnerable during this pandemic. As a congregation we have increased our financial support of Merrick Food Shelf and Every Meal, formerly Sheridan Story, so that those who are facing food insecurity are fed. As a congregation we have continued to worship weekly, sometimes twice a week, and our prayers . . . oh my goodness, when I think of all the prayers our community has prayed this year . . . prayers of wonder, thanksgiving, and pleas . . . when two or three gathered in my name, Jesus says, and I can only imagine all the power of our shared prayer this year for us, our world, and our relationship with God.

In the midst of the trauma and challenge of this pandemic God has gifted my eyes to see some silver linings in the clouds: the reminder that we are the church and not the building in which we normally worship together; online book club with small groups of our congregation to discuss our faith in context with the perspective of authors and characters who are different from us; another year of weekly Wednesday youth group with our amazing high school juniors who would normally be too busy for church with all of their extracurriculars; and, the opportunity to try new things, to fail, and to try again because everything is new during this season

As we move into this new year of 2021 I am excited for the ways God continues to call and shapes us as a Gateway of Faith together. As always, I am grateful for you and to serve in ministry together with you as your associate pastor.

Rev. Amanda Simons

STATISTICS – PASTORAL ACTS 2020

Sacrament of Baptism

Eleanor Lorraine Eckert

Weddings

Deaths & Funerals

Thor Nordwall
Judith Kay Grauer
Beverly “Bev” Lindner
Loreen Steele-Youngren
Betty St. Germain
Ruth Swanson
Dolores Larson

Charles “Chuck” Josephson
John C. Youngren
Tharen Swanson
Amy Himmer
Barb Josephson
Pat Hierlinger

Marjorie Shaver
Joyce Cairnes
Marge Schwartz
Edward Palmer
Marylu DeVahl
Dawn Sawyer



Faith Formation through Christian Education Committee 2020 Annual Report

The Mission and Ministry of the Faith Formation through Christian Education Committee is to provide opportunities for all ages to grow in Christ and in spiritual vitality.

This past year the Faith Formation Committee has been involved in the following activities:

- Children and Youth led worship on Sunday, March 1st followed by a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for our Camp Onomia association. Camp Program Director, Daniel Ditmanson assisted with worship and promoted summer Camping opportunities.
- After in-person worship and church activities were cancelled in March, Sunday School went online with videos created by Sparkhouse Publishing. In the fall, a Sunday School team was formed to plan lessons and monthly packets were mailed to families. Weekly emails were sent with a recorded Children's Message.
- Fleece Blankets with embroidered personal milestone dates were made by Amy Lipetzky, Karen Weiblen and Sherrie Nordquist. They were delivered to the 3 GA High School Graduates in June.
- **"ROCKY RAILWAY: JESUS' POWER PULLS US THROUGH"** Vacation Bible School at GA August 10-13. GA teamed with Our Redeemer Lutheran Church to record daily worship openings, Bible Storytelling, and Imagination Station activities. Stay-On-Track Student Packs were assembled with DVDs of the recordings, a music CD, Banduras, Bible Memory Buddies, Imagination Station Gizmos and activities for Preschool children.
- We were unable to do in-person Summer Stretch or go to Camp Onomia for overnight camps. Camp Onomia came to us with a special Summer Splash event on July 22 for Children in Kindergarten through Grade 12. Camp Staff followed strict protocol for safety and led kiddos in worship, Bible study, games, and more for a full day of faith and fun!
- Parent's Night Out events continue to be popular with childcare provided by adult volunteers and GA youth. Proceeds go to GA's youth campership fund and youth ministry activities. 2 events were held this year.
- Wednesday Faith Nights were suspended in March. Confirmation youth met with Pastor John and small group leaders by phone or online with their mentors during Lent and moved to online classes in April and May. In person outdoor Confirmation, KINGS and youth group sessions were held in September and October on Wednesdays following Drive-In worship.
- SPARK NRSV Bibles were presented to children in third grade and SPARK Story Bibles were presented to children just starting Sunday School during Wednesday Drive-In Worship on October 7.
- Our congregation is an associate member of Camp Onomia and supports the camp with a yearly contribution raised through special concerns giving during the month of April and a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser in March. GA youth were able to attend Camp Onomia retreats in January and February.

- The Annual Garage Sale and Craft Show Bake Sale were cancelled this year due to Covid-19. Additional fundraiser plans included a Movie Night and concessions sales of candy and snacks at Games Nights but were also cancelled

- Our senior high youth group meets regularly on Wednesday nights with Pastor Amanda in person and virtually depending on safety factors due to Covid.

- **Frolic** is an online resource for early childhood faith formation. E-newsletters are sent to parents and caregivers of young children each month with articles about child development and faith formation. Sunday morning Frolic gatherings for parents and their young children were cancelled along with Saturday morning Tiny Tots Gym. Stephanie Surine continued to connect with families through email videos and a summer pizza box kit.

- The church library completed their work to catalog our collection. We are grateful for volunteers sharing their time to barcode items and enter information.

- We welcome anyone who would like to join our group. We are always open for some fresh new ideas!

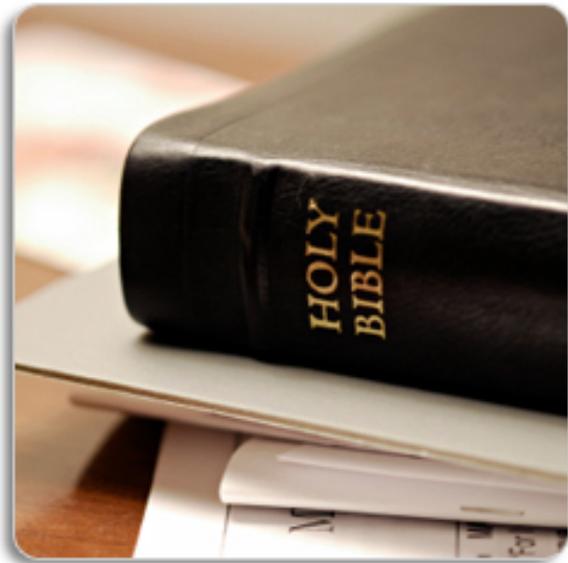
The Adult Education sub-committee meets monthly to plan Table Talk sessions on Sunday morning. This past fall they switched to virtual Table Talk sessions on Zoom following Coffee Hour on Sunday mornings.

We continue to seek to reach out to parents as we focus on ways to build relationships and provide support and resources to help them share faith with their children at home. We hope as a committee that we have inspired all members of our congregation to grow in faith through Faith formation for children, Confirmation and youth group for teenagers, Bible classes and book discussion groups for adults. It is our hope and prayer that our efforts have been uplifting to the congregation as a whole.

Sincerely,

The Faith Formation through Christian Education Committee –

Brenda Holthaus, Amy Lipetzky, Stephanie Surine, Emily Harrison, Pastor Amanda Simons, Sherrie Nordquist



Finance Committee 2020 Annual Report

The finance committee has been meeting monthly on Zoom since the pandemic has prevented in person meetings. We review giving trends to the general fund and the building fund. Recommendations for spending as well as the financial reports are then presented to the church council for approval. Income and expense projections flew out the window in March as we had to curtail in person worship and many of our tenants had to stop operations as well. As we pivoted to on line and outdoor worship we incurred new and unanticipated expenses such as the need to outfit the sanctuary for live streaming. Fortunately congregational giving held steady and we were very excited to be able to pay down our mortgage principal by over \$200,000 for the second year in a row! This is due to the prayers and giving of our congregation. God is good! Also in 2020 Maggie Kidnie retired in February and unretired in May when Paul Thorson moved from the area. Thank you to our committee members, Brett Bowman, Treasurer, Dan Bjorkquist, Council Representative, Pam Seibert and Jen Olson.

Nancy Nelson
Finance Chair



Global Missions Committee 2020 Annual Report

The committee mission remained the same in this pandemic year, although carried out in different ways. Our Tanzanian partnerships and Special Concern dedicated mission months define our outreach.

January is ELCA Global Mission month, and again this year we donated to the Guatemala Women Center which focuses on housing, education and empowerment of young women to live a safer life.

Our greatest sadness came when the pandemic eliminated the opportunity of our six designated ambassadors to travel to Iringa, Tanzania. Hopefully when vaccinations are available worldwide, and travel restrictions opened, once again there will be a group visiting our sisters and brothers in Kiponzelo and Igangidungu'u.

The usual *Bites* event became *Eyes & Ears of Tanzania* and held on Wednesday evening in the parking lot and a Sunday in early October. We learned from reports sent from Tanzania, that Kiponzelo had a fundraiser going on to purchase a car for the parish but used by the pastor to provide services to the parish and community. Igangidungu'u was building a house for their pastor. Our E & E fundraiser provided \$1,500 for each parish to apply to their projects.

We also tried to improve communications with our partners through emails and connections with BKB staff in TZ.

Education of secondary students in Tanzania remains an important need. Scholarship dollars are distributed by committee in TZ, but we now will be using the \$450 figure as a more accurate way to address dollar needs per student. We committed to providing \$4,500 (plus BKB fees) for the 2021 year.

December is Global Hunger Month. We have partnered with the Sunday School through the Barnyard animal project. It is a wonderful way for the children to be an active part of the congregation and to also learn early about mission outreach. Whatever money raised would be distributed by the Sunday school children through Zoom discussions in January.

I want to thank the Endowment Committee for their annual contribution of interest tithe and for the additional grant to our Ears & Eyes fundraiser. Their support certainly makes it easier to financially support mission in many more areas.

I wish to thank the folks that have served on this committee over the years: Nancy Johnson, Dan Shogren, Carrie Fisher, Carol Sandberg currently; Denise Hassenstab, Joe and Marilyn Norquist in the past, and most importantly, the work that Wes Johnson did to keep mission in front of this congregation. All of you have been great teachers and partners in mission, but this is my last report.

Blessings,
Jean Schwartz

PROPERTY COMMITTEE 2020 Annual Report

The Property Committee, along with the staff of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, deeply appreciates the congregations's commitment with all the processes and procedures created on their behalf for the smooth operations of systems. These processes and procedures are crucial for the smooth operations of the many systems that comprise the Building and Grounds of Gustavus Adolphus Church.

Our committee's long term purpose is to involve members and staff in a cooperative effort to promote a place of community as part of the church's ministries, as well as to satisfy the requirements of Church and Synod.

To oversee as necessary for the effective use of property and building through management and facilities services; this continues to be the mission of our committee. Thereby making sure that each staff and volunteer can meet the unique requirements needs of their ministry and mission right here in St. Paul.

Continued Top Priorities: HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning); Plumbing; Electrical/Lighting; Windows and Doors; Roof; and Parking Lot.

Devoted to maintaining and improving the Building and Grounds, the Property Committee of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church works with service providers with varied experience; that with these professionals are able to maintain a healthful environmentally friendly and safe surrounding.

Continuous & Renewed Efforts include: Asbestos Management; Deep Cleaning & Sanitizing; Lawn Care, Weed Control; Pest Control, Prevention; and Snow Plowing.

Contributions by the Congregation include: *(And We are Truly Thankful for this)*

- Knowledge and Expertise
- Ideas
- Participation
- Monetary Gifts

We are thankful for this support and assistance by the Pastors, the Business Admin, the Custodians, Members – notably the Friday Crew, the dedicated Staff, and of course companion Committees!

Sincere thanks to committee members: Rick Howard (Council Representative), John Hierlinger (Pastor), Tim Himmer, Michael Richie, and Karen Weiblen (Chairperson).

Sincerely,
Karen Weiblen, Chairperson

Care Team Ministry 2020 Annual Report

Members: Louise Feske, Nancy Johnson, Nola Relay, Elaine Rhode, Jean Schwartz, Dan Shogren

Despite the pandemic, the Care Team kept busy volunteering 328.25 hours - slightly more than last year! Our activities were much different this year. We made phone calls to GA members instead of visiting them and went grocery shopping and ran errands instead of driving them to appointments. We didn't have Senior Moments but one member made face masks for church members. Easter plants were not delivered this year but cards were sent. At Christmas poinsettias were delivered to over 35 shut-ins and members who experienced a loss this year and an additional 15 cards were sent to seniors living out of town. Also, every member over the age of eighty received a birthday card.

2020 was a difficult year for everyone including our seniors who felt and continue to feel isolated. The Care Team, in a small way, helped to make them feel cared for and attempted to aid them in providing some services.

Nancy Johnson
Chair



Worship and Music Committee 2020 Annual Report

Committee Members: Andrew Parr, staff, Andy Lowther (council liaison), Donna Dean, Karen Landkamer, Nancy Johnson, Bruce Pelava, Verilyn Pelava, Janet Peterson, and Barb Surine.

The committee oversees the worship and music of the church. Worship is designed by the pastors, but the committee members discuss and bring forward ideas to better enrich the worship experience for the congregation, and to put these ideas into action. The Theme Team, is a subcommittee and meets monthly to assist the Director of Worship and Music to select hymns for the 9:00 service based on the weekly scripture readings.



2020 started with plans for Lent, three new lavalier microphones and a new handheld microphone were purchased, plexiglass was placed over the altar in the chapel. New DVD equipment was purchased and DVD's were sent out to shut ins.

April 30th, Jerry Brakke retired, after 47 years as Director of Worship and Music at GA. His talent, skill, hard work and willingness to create meaningful worship will long be remembered. We wish him well in his retirement.

Three committee members were on the hiring committee, helping to interview candidates to replace Jerry Brakke. Through prayer, meditation, and discussion, Andrew Parr was chosen to continue leading GA in music. Andrew has contributed greatly, as in person worship was not possible. The committee is extremely pleased as Andrew has brought music to GA during this time of pandemic.

Committee meetings were not held during the summer, but returned via Zoom in October. We anticipate meeting via Zoom for much of 2021.

The committee wishes to thank pastors, John Hierlinger and Amanda Simons, for listening and discussing suggestions from the committee. We wish to thank Nancy Johnson for her leadership of the Eucharistic Ministry Team, and all who have shared their vocal skills as Cantors and Soloists. Barb Surine has organized and notified readers. Despite the pandemic we were able to have instrumentalists accompany music during Advent.

As 2021 progresses, we are eager to return to in person worship and other activities provided by GA. When that time comes, we hope that members of the congregation will volunteer to share their "Time" as well as their talents on behalf of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church

In Christ,

Verilyn Pelava

**Approved Minutes of Annual Meeting
Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 26, 2020
Luther Hall**

Present: Pastor John Hierlinger, Pastor Amanda Simons, Jason Wittenberg, Amy Lipetzky, Brett Bowman, Dan Bjorkquist, Carrie Fraser, Denise Hassenstab, Rick Howard, Dan Shogren

Absent: All members present

Welcome, Prayer, and Opening Hymn: Pastor Amanda welcomed the congregation and led them in prayer. “The Church of Christ, in Every Age” was sung.

Call to order: President Jason Wittenberg called the meeting to order at 10:55 a.m.

Pastors’ Remarks: **Pastor Amanda** is grateful for the support of the congregation during the time she needed for bed rest. Her main goal this year is to complete GA’s constitutional review so that it is ready for a vote at the annual meeting in 2021. She mentioned the Eucharistic Ministry program began by Intern Kimberly Ryan. One of the results of the formation of this group is that she and Pastor John have had a regular visitation schedule since October. Pastor Amanda extended an Invitation to join the Local Ministry Committee being formed. She is looking forward to the Tanzania visit this Summer and made an announcement regarding the Tanzania Dinner and Silent Auction being held on February 15th. Pastor Amanda concluded her remarks by giving an example of the nets of compassion expressed her through Open Table. She shared a story about two people who have been attending the dinners regularly and told her, “We love your church. We belong here.”

Pastor John expressed his gratitude and feels privileged to be the pastor of this congregation. He appreciates the patience and love shown toward his family along with the support he and Jenny both receive. Pastor John is looking forward to the youth trip to Memphis this Summer where members of the Deep Dive Confirmation group will engage in service learning as well as the Holy Land Trip in November. Pastor John is eager to explore a deeper dive in storytelling with congregation members. He is very pleased with the 25% increase in giving this year toward Capital Campaign Fund which has resulted in increased giving to community organizations.

Presentation of 2019 Annual Financial Reports and 2020 Mission Spending Plan: Brett Bowman presented the annual financial reports. Discussion followed. Karen Landkamer made a motion to approve the 2020 Proposed Budget, seconded by Christopher Stordalen; unanimously approved.

Presentation of Committee and Council Candidates: Jason Wittenberg called for a vote to approve this slate of candidates which was unanimously approved.

Church Council: Deb Hogen and Andy Lowther

Lyngblomsten Care Center: Ken Bjork, Bill Lund, Marlys Sivertson, Jill Youngren, and Tim Youngren

Gustavus Adolphus College: Barb Higgins and Nancy Johnson

Camp Onomia: Cathy and Jeff Ronning

Election of Committee and Council Candidates: Jason Wittenberg called for a vote to approve the candidates which received unanimous approval.

Before adjourning, Pastor John made announcements regarding Souper Bowl Sunday on February 2nd, the Tanzania Fundraiser on February 15th and Ash Wednesday services which will be held on February 26th. March 2nd is Youth Sunday. A pancake breakfast will be served after the 9:30 a.m. service and Camp Onamia staff will be present.

Motion to Adjourn: Dan Shogren moved to adjourn, seconded by Verilyn Pelava at 11:40 a.m.

Closing Prayer and Hymn: Pastor John delivered the closing prayer and led the congregation in reciting the Lord's Prayer. The congregation sang "The Church's One Foundation."

Submitted by Cathy Ronning, Council Secretary



During all that, the synod assembly was hosted as an online event on Sept. 25-26. We did it, friends! We mastered new technological platforms and demonstrated we could be together while being apart for the essential business of the synod. I am grateful for the confidence you showed in me and the synod staff team when you re-elected me to a second six-year term.

One of the commitments I bring is to continue the transformational work we need to do as individuals, congregations, and institutions to address racism and to hard-bake racial equity and a profound respect for diversity into all aspect of our church life. That is as essential to our well being as are all the safety precautions we have taken to lessen the impact of COVID-19.

Our pastors and deacons deserve our gratitude for stepping up and creating new ways to live out their vocations. Put to the test, they responded with imagination and persistence. I know you join me in thanking them. Three new colleagues were ordained in 2020. They include Deacon Stephanie Anderson-Telschow, Pastor Jason Kramme, and Deacon Brad Mills. At the close of 2020 we have 47 persons in the candidacy process and are grateful for their openness to serving in a church so shaped by the events of 2020.

While the focus of ministry shifted in every setting, eight congregations continued their work in the Year of Renewal, an intentional revitalization process that matches the spiritual gifts of members with God's work in the surrounding community. The 2020 participants included Bethlehem, St. Paul; Chisago Lake, Center City; Our Saviour's, Hastings; Redeemer, White Bear Lake; and Our Redeemer, St. Paul. Alongside this work, 12 congregations participated in the synod-sponsored Stewardship for All Seasons program, and 11 others in the Beginning a Culture of Generosity initiative.

While much attention was given to sustaining congregational life this past year, our mission start partners and global companions were not forgotten. Together as a synod we have supported ministry efforts at Christ the Servant, Vadnais Heights; Lutheran Church of Peace, Maplewood; Hope, St. Paul; Minnesota Faith Chinese, Roseville; Good Samaritan, St. Paul; Humble Walk, St. Paul; The Depot of St. Andrew's, Hugo; Cristo Rey, New Brighton; Foundation of Life, St. Paul; and Shobi's Table, St. Paul. Likewise, while the pandemic made it impossible for delegations to travel to Tanzania or Guatemala, prayers and project support abounded to help our siblings in other parts of the world continue their mission in Christ.

Let me end with a special word of thanks to the synod staff. Two staff members retired or completed their term of service in 2020 – Greg Triplett and Deacon April Trout. We thank them for good and faithful service. The current staff include Michael Gold, office assistant; Alicia Rodriguez, office manager; Mary Smith, director of communications; David Roinas, finance administrator; Pastor Justin Grimm, director for evangelical mission and assistant to the bishop; Deacon Krista Lind, assistant to the bishop; Anna Marsh, executive assistant to the bishop; Pastor Peter Harrits, director of Bega Kwa Bega and assistant to the bishop, and Ryan and Astine Bose, newly named short-term volunteers in Iringa.

We have been stretched and tested, but all through this past year God has been at work in and through us. What a joy it is for all of us to serve with you in the Saint Paul Aria Synod.

Yours in God's service



Bishop Patricia Lull



Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church
General Fund Summary
Year Ended December 31, 2020
(UNAUDITED)

	2019	2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUAL (unaudited)
INCOME			
Member Gifts	\$ 399,460	\$ 415,000	\$ 399,268
Festival Income	15,428	15,500	8,500
Transfers In	48,085	49,500	37,329
Facility Use & Other Income	202,547	219,821	168,575
TOTAL INCOME	665,520	699,821	613,672
EXPENSES			
Children, Youth and Family	16,418	24,775	5,841
Community Outreach	2,717	1,750	614
Social Ministry	9,415	9,750	10,817
Care Ministry	3,518	2,500	355
Worship	9,633	2,800	3,847
Music	10,133	12,400	10,448
Personnel	418,604	447,983	390,127
Administrative	33,101	31,700	40,607
Hospitality	19,725	16,200	2,980
Stewardship	25,215	25,970	24,181
Property	105,263	108,850	96,755
Interest Expense	28,889	20,000	18,883
TOTAL EXPENSE	682,631	704,678	605,455
Capital Expenditures	-	8,000	20,820
EXCESS (DEFICIT)	\$ (17,111)	\$ (12,857)	\$ (12,603)

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church
Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2020 (UNAUDITED)

	General Fund	Dedicated Funds	Mortgage & Building Reserve	Property & Building	Endowment Fund	Total All Funds
INCOME						
General Fund	\$ 574,343	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 574,343
Endowment Fund	-	-	-	-	19,274	19,274
Dedicated Funds	-	33,822	-	-	-	33,822
Building Fund	-	-	15,130	-	-	15,130
Capital Reserve	-	-	198,892	-	-	198,892
Mortgage	-	-	214,022	-	-	214,022
TOTAL INCOME	574,343	33,822	214,022	-	19,274	841,461
Dedicated Funds (Fiscal Agency)	-	37,280	-	-	-	37,280
Internal Transfers Between Funds	37,329	27,382	-	206,637	-	271,348
TOTAL INCOME & TRANSFERS	611,672	98,484	214,022	206,637	19,274	1,150,090
EXPENSES						
General Fund	605,392	-	-	-	-	605,392
Dedicated Funds	-	36,426	-	-	-	36,426
Building Fund	-	-	1,500	-	-	1,500
Capital Reserve Expenses	-	-	-	-	1,393	1,393
Endowment Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest Paid on Loans	18,883	-	-	-	-	18,883
TOTAL EXPENSES	624,275	36,426	1,500	-	1,393	663,593
Dedicated Funds (Fiscal Agency)	-	44,729	-	-	-	44,729
Internal Transfers Between Funds	-	39,431	216,590	-	15,827	271,848
TOTAL EXPENSES & TRANSFERS	624,275	120,585	218,090	-	17,220	980,170
Excess(Deficit)	\$ (12,603)	\$ (22,101)	\$ (4,068)	\$ 206,637	\$ 2,054	\$ 169,920

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
at December 31, 2020
(UNAUDITED)

	General Fund	Dedicated Funds	Mortgage & Building Reserve	Property & Building	Endowment Fund	Total All Funds
ASSETS						
Cash	-22,363	84,593	105,893	0	72,608	240,731
Investments						
Mission Investment Fund	0	0	0	0	84,210	84,210
ELCA Foundation Board	0	0	0	0	62,647	62,647
Thrivent Investment	0	0	0	0	142,751	142,751
Thrivent Mutual Fund	0	0	0	0	114,164	114,164
Stock gifts	0	0	4,925	0	0	4,925
GA Loan	0	0	0	0	320,000	320,000
Total Investments	0	0	4,925	0	723,772	728,697
Accounts Receivable	250	0	0	0	0	250
Property Assets	0	0	0	10,017,497	0	10,017,497
TOTAL ASSETS	-22,113	84,593	110,818	10,017,497	796,380	10,987,175
LIABILITIES						
Accounts Payable	3,810	0	0	0	0	3,810
Fiscal Agency Funds	0	4,879	0	0	0	4,879
Prepaid Rent/Deposits	2,595	0	0	0	0	2,595
PPP Loan	87,456	0	0	0	0	87,456
Thrivent Mortgage	0	0	0	154,619	0	154,619
Community Reinvestment Fund	0	0	5,416	0	0	5,416
Loan from Endowment	0	0	0	320,000	0	320,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	93,861	4,879	5,416	474,619	0	578,775
EQUITY						
Equity	-103,370	101,815	109,469	9,336,241	764,679	10,208,834
Valuation Reserve	0	0	0	0	29,647	29,647
Current Year Excess(Deficit)	-12,604	-22,101	-4,068	206,637	2,054	169,919
TOTAL EQUITY	-115,974	79,714	105,401	9,542,878	796,380	10,408,400
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	-22,113	84,594	110,817	10,017,497	796,380	10,987,175

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church
Benevolence Report
year ended December 31, 2020

Dedicated Funds

Camp Onomia Partnership	1,997
ELCA Good Gifts (animal purchase)	785
Every Meal	2,483
Good Samaritan Church (SPAS)	120
Habitat for Humanity	2,483
Hazelden/Betty Ford Foundation	50
Kiponzelo/Iganigidungu'u Scholarships	8,213
Kiponzelo/Iganigidungu'u Eyes & Ears Project	3,375
LSS (for Christmas Gifts)	1,349
LSS Lifehaven	2,778
LSS Refugee Services	145
Lutheran Campus Ministry	210
Lyngblomsten Fnd (for Christmas gifts)	380
Merrick - Food Shelf	5,723
Pastor's Discretionary/Community Chest	909
Plants for Shut ins	210
Shobi's Table	2,483
Tanzania Trip	1,000
total from Dedicated Funds	34,693

General Funds

Bethlehem Church - supplies for neighborhood relief	255
Camp Subsidies	40
Church Anew Partnership	1,000
Flowers for Shut ins	160
Garden (north side of building)	1,338
Milestone Gifts	355
Saint Paul Area Synod ELCA	22,770
Tanzania Partnership	2,813
Tanzania Roof Project	563
Every Meal	6,750
total from General Funds	36,043

Endowment Funds

College Scholarships	3,300
total from Endowment Funds	3,300
TOTAL	\$ 74,036

Congregation members continue to designate Thrivent Action Cards to be used for various events and projects

We provided Christmas gifts for 72 homeless young people and their children

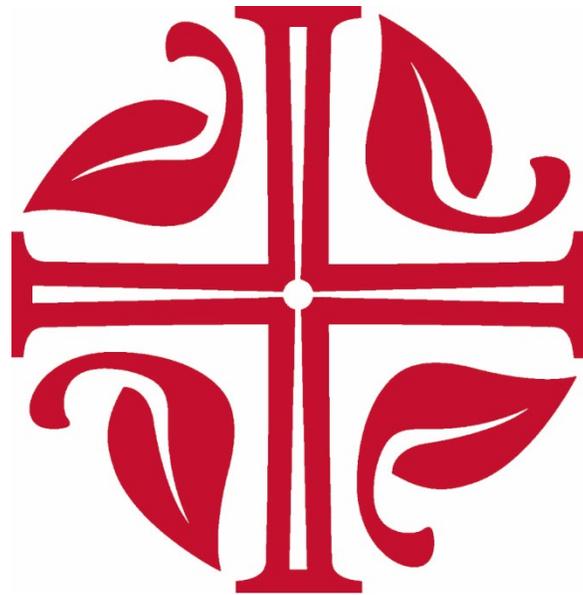
We provided meeting space for Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Bega Kwa Bega and other SPAS groups as allowed by the pandemic. We also charge a reduced rent on the food shelf portion of Merrick's space.

We invited food trucks to use our parking lot on Sundays this fall as outreach to our neighbors

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church 2021 Proposed Budget

	2019	2020 Budget	2020 Actual(Unaudited)	2021 Proposed Budget
Income Source				
Stewardship Gifts	\$ 399,460	\$ 415,000	\$ 399,268	\$ 409,084
Festival Income	15,428	15,500	8,500	11,100
Transfers In	48,085	49,500	37,329	28,000
Facility Use & Other Income	202,547	219,821	168,575	202,134
Total Income:	665,520	699,821	613,672	650,318

	2019	2020 Budget	2020 Actual(Unaudited)	2021 Proposed Budget
Expense Category				
Children, Youth and Family	16,418	24,775	5,841	17,475
Community Outreach	2,717	1,750	614	1,250
Social Ministry	9,415	9,750	10,817	10,250
Care Ministry	3,518	2,500	355	2,500
Worship	9,633	2,800	3,847	2,800
Music	10,133	12,400	10,448	13,300
Personnel	418,604	447,983	390,127	423,847
Administrative	33,101	31,700	40,607	38,608
Hospitality	19,725	16,200	2,980	4,500
Stewardship	25,215	25,970	24,181	25,730
Property	105,263	108,850	96,755	109,520
Interest Expense	28,889	20,000	18,883	9,700
Total Expenses:	682,631	704,678	605,455	659,480
Capital Expenditures	-	8,000	20,820	-
Excess/Deficit	\$ (17,111)	\$ (12,857)	\$ (12,603)	\$ (9,162)



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