

ANNUAL REPORT

Family of Christ

2020

Good Courage

Lord 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.

~*The Prayer of Good Courage*, from the ELW



Outdoor Worship

The Prayer of Good Courage is how we have been ending our worship services for the last couple years. It began as a challenge for us to live our faith in the world from the relative comfort of the communities we have created and the blessings we have been given, but in 2020 it became something more. This has been a very tough year. A world pandemic, social unrest emerging from injustice, and deep fundamental divisions, along with our own personal struggles have shaken the perceived foundations we have built our lives and communities on. As a Family of Christ we had to abruptly stop in person worship and education, isolate ourselves from certain social interactions that normally filled us, and faced difficult life changes while those dependable systems we counted on looked very different, maybe even foreign to us. We have certainly experienced a year in which we have been in ventures of which we could not see the ending by a path untrodden through perils unknown.

As we have done so, we have seen that the God of love and Grace has guided us with hope and generosity. We as a community found ways to continue to worship and to be blessed by these moments, whether that was online, outside, or in ways we never expected. We grew in faith through zoom chats, activity boxes, campfires, and you tube videos. We supported one another through connectors, and new small groups, and simply reaching out to one another. We found new and safe ways to reach out to people by massively increasing our generosity, "Smartly" opening our facility to core ministries, and innovating without the fear that normally holds us back. This is where we were called last year.

It has not been easy, but as a community and a people of faith we have grown. We have trusted in God's expanded kingdom and with your support and encouragement we have stepped into the unknown with a tested faith deeper than what we knew. We have met the challenges of life and the world with the courage of the crucified Christ not knowing where we would go, but trusting that God's hand was leading us and God's love, through one another as community, was supporting us. To this I simply say, "Thank You!" Well done good and faithful servants, well done.

Peace,
Pastor Brent

Vision Statement

Family of Christ seeks “To be a Grace filled family of God, living the Gospel through Faith, Love and Compassion”

Mission Statement

We are a family embraced by God’s Grace, growing in faith, serving and proclaiming Christ’s love for all people.

2020 Church Council

President—Josie Hellier
Vice President—Annie Yolitz
Secretary—Kirstin Specht
Treasurer—Chuck Halvorson
Financial Secretary—Dave Peterson
At Large – Kevin Hatlestad
At Large – Donny Bergquist
At Large – Jessica Christiansen

Thank you all for your grateful service and the gifts you have shared with our congregation.



Core Values - Family of Christ

1. Is a welcoming and accepting family of God that provides opportunities for people to build relationships with God and others through worship, learning and service.
2. Is about shaping the lives of youth and children, and building stronger family relationships.
3. Seeks to create an impact on other’s lives and bring about God’s Kingdom.
4. Is a community where gifts, talents, and skills are utilized and appreciated.
5. Strives to provide care, compassion and support for one another.
6. Creates spaces for people to grow in relationship with God and others.

Church Staff

<u>Pastor</u> Brent Erler	<u>Office Assistant</u> Linda Bauer	<u>Intern Pastor</u> Megan Eide
<u>Children’s Ministry</u> Cary Whittington	<u>Custodial</u> Kelly Kritsberg	<u>Musicians</u> Mary Wescott
	<u>Choir Director</u> Debra Capener	Laura Porter-Jones Morgan Jones

FAITH

We will gather together to grow through worship, learning, stewardship, prayer, and action in the world.



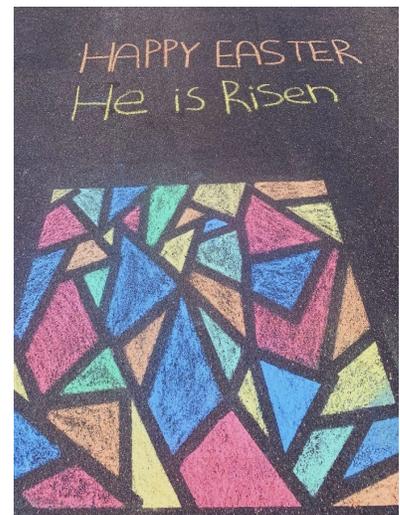
Summer Outdoor Worship

Worship

2020 started with worship we were used to and expanded in many ways. As the pandemic unfolded we saw worship services move online, outside, and to the parking lot. This has been a year of great creativity for all those involved in worship.

Music, Worship Series, and the Arts

This last year we had quality and diverse worship and music experiences. Although we only had a few months together with in person worship, the creativity and the resiliency of so many allowed us to continue to worship no matter how the world and our lives changed. There were transitions to online and the creation of outdoor experiences that allowed us to worship in new ways. We used worship series like “Give it Up”, “Unraveled”, and “Those Who Dream” to expand our faith in times of struggle. Our musicians and tech people found new and exciting ways to create and share with us. Families and others stepped up to read scriptures and prayers on video, share art, and be ushers under unknown circumstances. Visual art continued to be a part of our community through youth making Easter images, new worship art being shared, and Kitty creating a Bethlehem backdrop for outdoor Christmas .



Worship Art Created By Families at Home



Summer Worship Series

Statistical Information

Confirmands - Postponed until May 2021

Baptisms - 5

Weddings - 0

Funerals - 1



Easter Worship Sign

ACCEPTANCE

We will be a place where all are welcome and can grow into the people God has created them to be because God can be seen in the faces of all people.



Pastoral Intern Megan Eide

Community Partners

- AA
- Al-Anon
- Boy Scouts
- Cub Scouts
- American Red Cross
- 360 Communities
- South Metro Montessori
- Forte Fine Arts
- City of Lakeville
- Christian Motorcycle Association
- Ebenezer Ministries
- Election Polling Place
- The Drawer
- Community Garden

MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

We will care for one another and grow in relationship with God and one another.

Teaching Congregation

Empowering others in their faith has been an important part of last year. We continued our relationship with Megan Eide our Pastoral

Intern. She has emerged as an amazing blessing and helped us become mentors to the greater church. Our Adult education met in person after worship and continued online through bible studies, book clubs, and a new Sunday fellowship group.



Christmas Worship



Community Connectors

As we understood the affects of the pandemic had on our community to not be able to gather in person, we lifted up individuals to connect us with one another. These 12 individuals found ways to connect regularly with

us and to share important information. The bonds that these connectors created have helped us grow stronger in ways we hadn't had before. Special thanks to this team.

Smart Team

This last year has been a year of constant change. The council did an amazing job of leading us through this time, but the Smart Team helped us navigate the constant changes in ways that kept us safe and faithful. They created ways that we could begin to meet in person while interpreting important information that invited us to take a step back.

This team has been crucial to our community in the last year. Thanks to them all and their continued service.



Community Support Sign

IMPACT

We will make a difference in the world in Christ's name bringing about change in our lives and community.



Feed My Starving Children

Global Mission Tanzania

We continue our relationship with our sister congregation in the Usokami parish. Other support;

- \$5200 in Secondary Scholarships
- Over \$1500 given to Iringa Hope microfinancing
- \$2200 given to our partner congregation



ELCA Global Mission

Through special appeals and our increased general benevolence to the ELCA we worked with World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, HIV and AIDS Relief, the Malaria Campaign, and Immigration and Refugee Services. We share over \$4000 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Local Mission The Drawer

Last year we continued our relationship with the Drawer by collecting socks and underwear for homeless, sheltered, and others in need. After major donations from Bombas they needed more space so we opened up parts of the garage and basement. Our youth and others have also helped by packing bundles and moving things around. We also gave over \$800 in monetary donations to this continued partner.

360 Communities Food Shelf

This year we recognized the bigger needs of our neighbors by supporting our local food shelf. On top of having 3 major food drives, we also raised over \$2700 to help support local food shelves.



FMSC Pack

Trinity Care Center

On top of hosting our regular Christmas party with gifts for the residents, we also gave gift cards of appreciation to all the full time staff. Finally, we started an ongoing fund that will support the needs of the residents throughout the year.

Mission Starts

We continued our support of Lydia place but also increased our giving to include the rest of the St. Paul area synod mission starts with over \$1200.

\$14,607

Amount collected in our special and Noisy Offerings supporting local and global mission.

LOVE

We will provide care, compassion and support for one another.

This year we gave more than we ever have in energy and gifts to support ministries in our community. Thank you for your many blessings and your continued support of the greater Kingdom of God!

\$1800 was distributed in gift cards and financial support to our members and community

Partners in Ministry

Money and supplies from our general and noisy offerings and service events went directly to support the following partners:

- St. Paul Area Synod
- Usokami Parish
- Feed My Starving Children
- Lydia Place
- Luther Park
- CATCH House
- 360 Communities
- ELCA Disaster Response
- The Drawer
- Iringa Hope
- Catch House
- Trinity Care Center
- Orchard Lake Elementary



Trinity Care Center Gifts

YOUTH

We will create an environment where the young and young at heart can learn and be supported on their faith journeys.

Children, Youth and Family Update

This year has been a time of transition and reflection. Our regular Sunday School and Education classes were moving forward, along with a search for a new minister when we needed to change gears. Thank you to all the people who were part of this ongoing transition process. As we struggled to meet in person safely, many programs turned online and to support families with faith formation at home. We look forward to getting back together in the near future.

Faith in a Box and Quest

Our faith formation program and VBS were interrupted, so instead we took faith development to the families. We offered 3 Faith in a Box kits for families and a summer Quest that brought faith into the home and life.



Messy Church



Play and Praise

Youth Mission Trip

This year our youth were unable to go on their mission trip to Chicago. Our hope is that we will be able to return to these in the next year. In the meantime we continue to do local short term mission experiences.



Worship Online

Youth Room Remodeling Begins

Last fall we began to reimagine the youth space to make room for changing needs.



Other Activities

- Upgraded Speaker System
- Stewardship Training
- New Picnic Tables
- Upgraded Online Presence

Wednesday Nights

We started the year with weekly meals, confirmation and youth group. In March this changed to an online format that we kept until summer. This summer we moved to a combined program on Wednesday nights with fellowship, faith, and fire. Finally, this fall we met for confirmation outside until the end of October when we went into the sanctuary for classes. Thanks to all who helped.



Easter Blessings

Luther Park

Our youth were unable to attend Luther Park Camp this summer.

We instead donated the scholarships and collected additional funds to support camp. We were able to share an extra \$3400 with the camp.



**Family of Christ
2020 Financial Review / 2021 Proposed Budget**

2020 General Fund Income Actual				2021 Proposed Budget		
	2020 Budgeted	2020 Actual Giving	Variance	2021 Budgeted Giving	\$ Variance to 2020 Actuals	% Variance
General Fund Income Total	\$386,500	\$367,819	(\$18,681)	\$435,814	\$67,995	15.6%
Giving	\$349,500	\$335,914	(\$13,586)	\$348,914	\$13,000	3.7%
Outreach / Giving	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000	100.0%
Building Income	\$32,000	\$27,665	(\$4,335)	\$30,000	\$2,335	7.8%
Misc / Other	\$5,000	\$4,240	(\$760)	\$5,000	\$760	15.2%
PPP Proceeds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$26,900	\$26,900	100.0%

2020 Expenses vs. Budget				2021 Proposed Expense Budget	
	2020 Budgeted Expenses	2020 Actual Expenses	Over / (Under) Budget	2021 Expense Budget	\$ Change Vs. 2020 Budget
BENEVOLENCE	\$14,000	\$14,000	0	\$15,300	\$1,300
EDUCATION YOUTH / FAMILY	\$4,000	\$3,452	(548)	\$8,000	\$4,000
FELLOWSHIP	\$1,500	\$420	(1,080)	\$1,500	\$0
FIN/STEWARDSHIP	\$4,000	\$1,787	(2,213)	\$3,000	(\$1,000)
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$11,000	\$10,642	(358)	\$11,000	\$0
OFFICE SALARIES	\$192,692	\$155,719	(36,973)	\$197,692	\$5,000
COMMUNITY / OUTREACH	\$1,500	\$1,038	(462)	\$6,500	\$5,000
OUTREACH GIVING	\$0	\$0	0	\$25,000	\$25,000
PROPERTY	\$46,500	\$37,172	(9,328)	\$44,000	(\$2,500)
WORSHIP	\$4,500	\$3,889	(611)	\$4,500	\$0
MISC/PREPAID	\$2,000	\$2,524	524	\$2,750	\$750
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$1,000	\$1,000	0	\$12,635	\$11,635
RESERVES	\$500	\$631	131	\$629	\$129
MORTGAGE	\$103,308	\$103,308	0	\$103,308	\$0
Total	\$386,500	\$335,583	(\$50,917)	\$435,814	\$49,314

2020 FOC Financial Giving = \$8,677 more than 2019!

FMSC, Drawer, Trinity Care, 360 Food Shelf, SPAS Mission	Luther Park	Lutheran Disaster Relief	Tanzania	Annual Budgeted Benevolence	Total Giving
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\$6,368

\$3,647

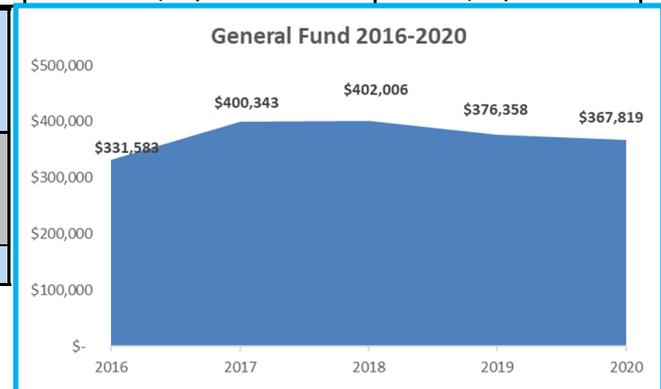
\$4,005

\$10,747

\$14,000

\$38,767

Capital Improvement and Reserves				
	Beginning Balance	+	-	Ending Balance
Reserves	\$44,381	\$631	\$0	\$45,011
Capital Improvement	\$23,156	\$1,401	(\$3,014)	\$21,543
Total	\$67,537	\$2,032	(\$3,014)	\$66,554



Next Year

* Grow Youth and Family ministries through creating new intergenerational opportunities, finding a YF minister, and recreating space



* Serve the communities we are part of by growing our current partnerships, interacting more with community leaders, and partnering with local schools

* Reach out to the area around us with the Good News of Christ by intentionally creating relationships that will invite others into God's ministry with us

* Care for our buildings and grounds by updating current space and expanding other physical needs to expand ministries

Contact Us

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Family of Christ Lutheran Church

“Living the Gospel through Faith, Love, and Compassion”

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