

**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church**

**2020 Annual Report**

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# **St Andrew's Lutheran Church Annual Meeting**

**January 31, 2021**

*St. Andrew's is recognized as a Christian community, celebrating God's love through serving others,  
and working for peace and justice.*

**Call to order**

**Opening prayer**

**Determine quorum**

**Approve/revise agenda**

**Approve 2020 minutes**

**President's report**

**EMF report**

**Treasurer's report**

**Audit report**

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

- Approval of mortgage refinance and line of credit renewal
- Approval of 2021 budget
- Approval of audit committee -council will oversee nominations and vote on membership at a later date
- Approval of personnel committee
- Approval of mutual ministry committee
- Approval of nominating committee
- Approval of 2021 council
- Announcement by Lynn Miller, Call Committee Chair

**Closing Prayer**

**Adjourn meeting**

## **St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Annual Meeting**

**January 26, 2020**

*St. Andrew's is recognized as a Christian community, celebrating God's love through serving others, and working for peace and justice.*

Call to order – 11:55 am

Opening Prayer – Vice President Kris Parson

Quorum is present.

Approve/revise meeting agenda – motion to approve; motion accepted.

Approve 2019 minutes – motion to approve (with corrected typos); motion approved and accepted.

President's report – Amanda Ahrens acknowledges the work of the congregation, thanks Pastor Jeff for serving as an interim pastor and the formation of a call committee for our next pastor. highlights include thanks to interim Pastor Jeff Alvestad, formation of call committee, updated St Andrew's website, and start-up of a discretionary fund to assist people in immediate need a laundry ministry. Motion to approve; motion accepted.

EMF Report – EMF committee has exercised option to put a grant line along with an operational line.

Treasurer's report – The financial health of SALC is good. Expenses were reduced, contributions were more than budget (more actual income), restricted funds have money and rentals are strong financially. Motion to approve; motion accepted.

Audit report – will extend 2019 committee to 2020.

Old Business

Changes to constitution and bylaws – 2<sup>nd</sup> approval of C13.06, change of composition of Call Committee was requested. Motion to approve; motion accepted.

The change (recommended by the Synod) was first approved at the 2019 SALC Annual meeting, and it needs to be approved at 2 congregational meetings.

New Business

Approval of requested transfer of operational funds by Property committee

to move \$3,875.00 from unused 2019 Building Improvements unrestricted (budgeted) funds to Renovation/Facility Improvement restricted line to fund the new boiler purchase

to move \$3,358.71 from unused 2019 Building Improvements restricted funds to Renovation/Facility Improvements restricted line to fund the new boiler purchase. Motion made to approve; motion was accepted and approved by congregation.

Motion to the congregation: Motion made to approve that the two applications from the Property Committee to help fund the purchase the boiler. Motion was accepted and approved by con-

gregation.

Approval of 2020 budget. Motion made to approve; motion accepted motion was accepted and approved by congregation.

Approval of personnel committee – Susan Teas, Susan Prochnow, and Al Jergens. Motion to approve; motion was accepted and approved by congregation.

Approval of mutual ministry committee – John Kovar, Susan Teas, Mary Johnson, Linda Seaverson, Al Jergens, Amanda Ahrens. Motion to approve; motion was accepted and approved by congregation.

Approval of audit committee – Sarah Buck, Denise Link, Carol Moran, Janet Dixon, Janeen Christy, Tom Prochnow. Motion to approve; motion was accepted and approved by congregation.

Approval of nominations committee – Pat Thompson, Miriam Takle, Cheryl Drury. Motion to approve; motion was accepted and approved by congregation.

Approval of 2020 council – Kris Parsons, Al Jergens, Dave Putz, Rollie Link, Alice Thompson, Laurie Hoifeldt, Janeen Christy, Lori Paulson, Steve Loucks. Motion to approve; motion was accepted and approved by congregation.

Call committee update – Call Committee will be discussing process and requesting congregational input to complete the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) during selected adult forums.

Closing Prayer – Steve Loucks

Adjourn meeting at 1:00 pm.

**St. Andrew's Data - 2014-2020**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Baptisms	4	3	1	4	1	1	3
New Members	9	17	7	12	0	6	2
Transfers out	4	7	2	17	36	3	1
Deaths	2	5	3	8	2	7	3
Statistical adjustment	256	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Baptized membership year</b>	<b>*407</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>370</b>

*\*Adjusted number based on membership list cleanse and maintenance in 2014*

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Confirmed membership year</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>336</b>
Confirmations	3	3	6	4	0	0	0
New Members	9	13	7	12	0	6	2
Transfers Out	4	7	2	17	27	3	1
Deaths	2	5	3	8	2	7	3
Statistical Adjustment	166	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Confirmed membership year</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>334</b>

*\*Adjusted number based on membership list cleanse and maintenance in 2014*

<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020* online</b>
10:30am Sunday	136	117	101	94	83	71	118
Summer Schedule	103	94	85	77	59	70	n/a
Easter (started 2014)	270	289	254	176	165	146	208
Wednesday (began 8/2014)	25	69	n/a	n/a	na	na	n/a
Christmas Eve (3pm) (began 2014)	68	50	50	55	n/a	n/a	n/a
Christmas Eve (7pm)	186	128	174	171	160	144	151
Christmas Day (not since 2013)	n/a	n/a	39	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

<b>Budget:</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Total Budgeted Expenditures	333,595	292,936	278,045	262,220	241,008	234,507	252,203
Actual Benevolence	23,632	11,530	22,267*	13,308	7,572	9,251	12,276
Actual Programs	20,226	14,564	15,031	16,129	8,961	8,459	5,517
Actual Personnel	213,341	168,679	155,991	165,911	122,741	135,772	160,315
Actual Debt Retirement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Actual Facilities/ Administrative Support	54,721	56,691	48,432	59,973	58,081	61,256	54,335
<b>TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>311,919</b>	<b>251,464</b>	<b>241,721</b>	<b>255,321</b>	<b>197,354</b>	<b>214,738</b>	<b>235,025</b>

*\*includes \$4,000 additional ELCA for 2015 but paid in 2016*

<b>Percentage of Expenditures:</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Benevolence	7.6	4.6	9.2*	5.2	3.8	4.3	5.3
Programs	6.5	5.8	6.2	6.3	4.5	3.9	2.4
Personnel	68.5	67	64.5	65	62.2	63.2	68.6
Debt Retirement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5
Facilities/Administrative Support	17.5	22.5	20	23.5	29.4	28.5	23.3

*\*includes \$4,000 additional ELCA for 2015 but paid in 2016*

**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church**  
**Parochial Report 2020**

***Baptisms (3)***

MaryLisa Lokken Cain

Emiley Kathleen Bruce (adult)

August Joseph Folkmann

***Funerals (3)***

Rupert Kenyon

Duane Caskey

George Christensen

***Confirmands (0)***

Celebration of confirmands is being delayed until we can meet in person again.

***New Members (2)***

Duane & Virla Caskey

***Members Transferred Out (1)***

Gloria Billings

## President's Report

January 6, 2021

2021 is here, and I believe that the wishes of "Happy New Year" have never been so sincere. I hope this year will be filled with growth, worship, prayer, and joy, and a successful end to the pandemic.

2020 was an eventful year, defined by COVID-19. I want to thank the members of the COVID-19 Task Force, created immediately upon the shutdown in March. Sarah Buck, Pauline Miller, Janeen Christy, and Linda Seaverson all worked diligently to enact the guidelines of the CDC and local health officials to keep us informed and safe.

In March, on the task force's recommendation, we immediately made the move to online worship and youth meetings to keep our members safe from the virus. Thanks to Pastor Jeff, Blythe Schultz, Kris Parsons, and all those who worked hours to get us online! Since we will continue to livestream services even after Covid 19 is under control, a new system has been installed.

Racial violence is not new, but in May we shared in the collective grief and felt a new awakening to racial injustice following George Floyd's murder in Minnesota. Our online adult forum responded with a study of Lenny Duncan's book "Dear Church," and "Luther's Small Catechism with African Descent Reflections."

A letter was sent to Bishop Current following this study, asking the synod to renew the work on racial justice, and we look forward to the response. This group also placed a banner on our front lawn that says "Jesus welcomes all and so do we. You are loved!" with our livestream information, in an effort to reach out to our community.

We learned the word "derecho" in August. With hardly any warning, it blew through and leveled much of central Iowa, leaving many homeless. Members contributed aid in many ways. Thanks to Steve Loucks for establishing an emergency response plan for our building.

Other accomplishments from this year include:

- The installation of a new, more efficient boiler system. Fundraising efforts were successful, and we incurred no new debt.

- A successful move to completely online worship services, missing only one Sunday following the shutdown

- Continued ministries on all levels: local, national and global

- Saving Suds continues to provide money for laundry for people in need. Thanks to Mary Johnson for her vision and care in leading this project.

- Pine Ridge Ministry Team delivered needed items as usual to the Pine Ridge reservation.

- A small group organized ways to show our support for Mary Greeley medical staff, delivering food items, small gifts and notes.

I'm sure that there were many other acts of love, kindness and generosity that went unannounced.

And in December, we said goodbye to our interim Pastor, Jeff Alvestad, with many thanks for his leadership and care, and God's blessing on his new call in Lawrence, Kansas. The Call Committee is at work to find our new pastor. For the immediate future, we have supply pastors ready for January and beyond as

needed.

The congregation of St. Andrew's has my undying gratitude for the outpouring of love, care, innovation, and perseverance from all of our members as we navigated each of these new challenges in 2020. As a newcomer to both Council and the role of President, I want to thank Council members, the task force, and Pastor Jeff for their guidance and steadfastness during this amazingly trying year. In a time when we could not meet in person, everyone gave their very best.

At the beginning of this new year, Linda Seaverson's (now famous!) question still stands: "As we find a new normal, what do we want to keep from the past?"

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Hoifeldt

President, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church



## EDWARDS ELEMENTARY TEAM REPORT

2020

This year, as we all know, has not been like any other. Our mission to prepare Back Packs and provide Classroom snacks ended with the Covid 19 Pandemic. We began in January, as every other year, meeting at the school on Thursdays to set out bags of food for kids to take home. Our congregation also provided needed snacks for the classroom. All of this ended with Spring Break in March when kids did not return to school. When summer ended the return to school was primarily on-line. I have been told that the school district has been providing bag lunches to families during this time. At this time we are not allowed in the school. I have used funds from our account to purchase snacks for the classroom and have been allowed to deliver to the door. Please continue to bring snacks to church and I will see that they get to the school. Heather can meet you at the door, just call ahead and let her know that you are coming.

### Christmas Giving Tree

Covid 19 also changed the way we helped three families this year. Rather than ask our members to purchase gifts, we collected money and gift cards. Your generosity was amazing and I assure you that this went along way to make for a better Christmas for a few families. I used the money to get gift cards from Hy-Vee, Target, Walmart and Fairway.

Family One \$360.00

Family Two \$370.00

Family Three \$430.00

Total \$1160.00 I know that God is working through this Congregation, despite our time apart. May God continue to Bless and keep each of you until we can worship together.

Edwards Ministry Team

## **Extended Ministries Fund (EMF) Committee 2020 Report**

### **GENERAL**

The focus of the EMF Committee is twofold: continued education about and growth of St. Andrew's Endowment, and the spending of memorial funds in both designated and undesignated categories. The use of these funds should primarily be for non-budgeted items (outside the regular operating budget) which promote and extend the ministries of St. Andrew's.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The EMF Committee once again put out requests for scholarships. A total of four scholarships were given out, each for \$500. Aware of a likely increase in requests, the committee kept to the \$500 cap used the past few years. The scholarship funds contained a little over \$8,000 at year's end.

### **MEMORIALS**

Approximately \$1,100 in undesignated and \$400 in designated memorials (Youth and Choir) came in during 2020.

### **UN-UTILIZED MEMORIALS**

A review of undesignated memorials was done, with the funds condensed into a pool. This effort allowed for the identification of available funds for use outside the standard operating budget. (See notes on Sanctuary Tech Upgrade).

### **ENDOWMENT**

This year a request (grant) for \$1,985 was made from the endowment and placed into the appropriate line in the EMF account. Once deposited, a total of approximately \$5,260 was available to support efforts/work outside the church's operating budget. (See notes on Sanctuary Tech Upgrade)

### **SANCTUARY TECH UPGRADE**

With the onset of COVID-19, SALC made a quick shift to online worship. Initial costs were covered through requests of family members of existing memorials. A larger pool of funds was then created to support a more coordinated effort to upgrade the technology in the sanctuary. Funds from memorials (both undesignated and choir-designated) and Endowment funds were matched with other funds to fully pay for the tech upgrade. At the writing of this report, the upgrade is planned to be installed by the end of the year.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

2020 Committee members included: Miriam Takle, Pauline Miller, Pat Fawcett, and David Putz

Respectfully submitted,

Members of EMF Committee

## **Fellowship Committee Report 2020**

Fellowship looked quite different in 2020, because for most of the year, we were not able to gather. Prior to March, while we were still meeting in person, the committee:

- Coordinated Sunday fellowship time after church services.
- Served brunch before the annual meeting.

After several months of staying home, we came up with virtual fellowship activities and, using Zoom:

- Coordinated and, aided by SALC Youth, distributed pies to members for a virtual Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social.
- Hosted virtual fellowship following Sunday services during Advent.

2020 committee members: Gayle Osterberg and Denise Link, Chairs; Janeen Christy, Liaison to Council; JoAnn Kovar, Lynette Jensen, Alycia Carlsborg, Miriam Takle, Sharon Anderson, Sheryl Drury

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE YEAR END SUMMARY 2020

Committee members are: Betty Beard, Martha Huinker, Pat Thompon, Vi Tweed, Tom Prochnow, Linda Hansen, Stephen Loucks, and Lisa Downs, chair.

The Outreach Committee “shall encourage evangelism by inviting members of the community to hear the gospel, contact prospective and inactive members, and work with the Pastor in visitation of sick and shut in members. It shall work with the Pastor to arrange for the reception and orientation of new members.”

This was a challenging year in many ways and particularly with the pandemic and the closure of the church for the majority of the year. We did make many gains in our technology and ability to livestream services and this will be a format that we continue on as we move forward. Special thanks to Kris Parsons, Bruce Boeke, and Blythe Schultz for their hard work and dedication to improve our systems, capabilities, and to bring the livestream into our livings rooms.

Our normal year activities include:

Arranging greeters for Sunday services, sending cards to the sick and bereaved, parents, visitors, filling worship bags for children, and taking photos for the facebook page. Thanks to Heather for keeping the Facebook page updated.

Visiting home bound members and sending cards on special occasions. This year with the pandemic and limited face to face interactions, we made extra effort to stay in communication by phone and e mail.

Many members also helped out with grocery deliveries to those who have difficulty getting out.

Providing hospitality and serving for fellowship following the service.

Keeping the visitor table in the narthex supplied, providing sign in sheets for the church pews, providing corsages and name badges for new members, as well as making picture displays for new members.

Providing lanyards and name badges.

Providing tapes of sermons and information to homebound members

Sending cross Christmas ornaments to those who have lost a loved one in the past year.

Outreach is looking forward to a fresh start in 2021. We will be looking for new ideas in how to connect, reach out, and follow up with prospective members, new members, and the congregation as a whole.

Reaching out to those in need with also be a priority. We look forward to working with the new Pastor, once installed, and building St. Andrews to a bright future.

God bless,  
Lisa Downs, Chair

## **2020 Personnel Committee Report**

Our committee members this year were Sharon Prochnow, Susan Teas, and Laurie Hoifeldt, chair.

At the beginning of March, Heather Eddy resigned her position as office administrator. Laurie filled in as personnel committee began the search process for a rehire. The position description was re-written to expand the role and include more responsibility; new methods of church communication and online presence have grown beyond the original. Many thanks to Linda Seaverson for her part in re-writing. We interviewed several applicants, and in July we were very happy to re-hire Heather. She has been an invaluable presence in our office during the pandemic, the derecho, new equipment installations, in addition to all of the 'regular' church office duties.

Individual employee reviews were completed via Zoom meetings in November.

Many thanks to the committee members for their assistance in this challenging year.

Laurie Hoifeldt, Chair

## **Pine Ridge Ministry Team**

This year, 2020 has been a year of questions. How do we help our friends at Pine Ridge? How do we stay safe? How do we keep our friends safe? How do we find toilet paper, hand sanitizer and masks? Our friends on the reservation set up roadblocks to monitor and slow the flow of Covid-19 to the reservation. This also limited their movement off the reservation, making getting supplies difficult. We had to think of "New" answers to our questions.

We started shipping out a few things. Then we were able to get a couple of storage units just off the reservation so the agencies we work with, were able to accept donations. We were able to make 3 truck trips out with donations. With a lot of people's help, we were able to send out 7 boxes of Christmas gifts.

Thank you again for your help, donations and support. Extra Thank you to Almira, Laurie and Terri for all their hard work.

Thank you again for all your support--  
Kristi Parsons

## 2020 Property Committee Annual Report

Members this year were Don Boyle, Dean Janssen, John Kovar, Lynnette Jensen, Nora Nelson, Joel Paulson, Carla Sacco, Linda Seaverson, Steven Loucks (Council Liaison). This committee does not have a chair but instead operates as a team. Some members particularly focus on exterior or interior or rental concerns or financial/admin. All members discuss the overall issues at our meetings and help out where needed. Despite the church closure for most of the year, the members of the committee did an excellent job of keeping up the exterior of the church. This committee is very much in need of more members.

The committee acknowledges the work of the church custodian, Gary Deal who watched over the building, and did extra cleaning and disinfecting during the closure due to COVID 19. The committee thanks Susan Teas for opening the church building before services. A big thank you to about 30 volunteers from Hope Lutheran for helping with Fall Cleanup day.

**New Boilers Installation Completed!** After many months of research and planning to replace the antiquated problematic boiler, fundraising began in late 2019 by Sarah Buck. Thank you, Sarah for your excellent fundraising skills. Pledges totaling \$110,139 have been made as of late December with most pledges paid in late 2019 and in 2020. Pledge money, other restricted line funds (\$7478), budgeted funds (\$3425) and an Alliant Energy Rebate (\$2099) were used to pay for the project. The total cost of the work described below was \$105,640. The remaining pledge money (\$14,700 in 2021 and \$4200 in 2022) will be used to repair the windows above the choir and perhaps other repairs.

Following a bid process with two contractors, MMC Contractors in Des Moines was awarded the job. This included replacing the old boiler with two smaller much more efficient boilers, replacing accessories such as an air separator system, a new expansion tank, new 3-way valve to regulate the water temperature going to the air handler, and several electrical improvements such as replacing the main disconnect panel, replacing the disconnect for the air handler, adding a circuit for the circulating pumps so they all weren't on the same circuit, and doing work associated with the lighting panel to bring it up to code. There was an additional element to the project involving covering holes in the sanctuary ceiling perimeter that were allowing warm air to escape thru the roof vents.

Safety and sanitation guidelines, necessary because of COVID 19, were written so that installation could begin on June 8. The work went smoothly. Special thanks to Dean Janssen for the many, many hours he put into the planning and oversight of this project. Linda Seaverson kept track of the finances.

Three new carbon monoxide monitors have been installed per city code. One is in the boiler room, one is in the kitchen to monitor the furnace north of the kitchen, and one is in the family restroom to monitor the furnace in the nearby closet (the latter two are installed in the nearest outlet to the respective furnace)

**Derecho tree damage:** On August 10, this storm with hurricane like winds damaged several big limbs on trees on the church property including blowing off the top of the tree by the front yard signage. The tree has been removed and stump is scheduled for removal in 2021.

**Ongoing tasks:**

Lawn mowing, weed control, and seeding - Dean Janssen

Yard clean-up, weeds, hedge trimming, leaves- Dean Janssen, Lynnette Jensen, Nora Nelson

Rentals Liaison-Joel Paulson

Interior repairs- Don Boyle

Fellowship time organizer-John Kovar

Financial oversight and reporting-Linda Seaverson

**Rentals:**

SALC has three houses to the north of the church on West Street (3404, 3410, 3414), the two-story house(triplex) east of the gravel parking lot, and Colorado Junction available for lease. First Property Management (FPM) continued to manage all the rental properties.

David Tapper, FPM, reported the following on December 23, 2020:

- 1) Cash on hand was approximately \$14,000. Property taxes are now paid on a monthly basis.
- 2) Installation of gutters and repair of damaged corners at Colorado Junction was completed This helps manage water drainage to avoid slick spots in the parking lot, and make corner damage in the future easier. Garbage enclosure work was done also.
- 3) Working with the City of Ames, a water main issue at 3414 West Street was completed. Replacement of the sidewalk is pending as weather permits.
- 4) All the houses are rented through July 31, 2022. The triplex units are rented through July 31, 2021 with one unit (main floor) rented through July 31, 2022. There are three vacant spaces (107, 203, 205) in Colorado Junction as of 12/ 23/2020. This year has been challenging for the restaurant businesses in Colorado Junction due to the COVID 19 restrictions but they are still in business and pay rent.
- 5) The line of credit balance of \$5938 at the beginning of 2020 was paid off on June 22, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Seaverson

Seaverson.linda@gmail.com



## **St. Andrews Lutheran Church Social Concerns Committee Report - 2020**

The members of the Social Concerns Committee for 2020 were: Amanda Kress, Monica Behning, Joan Dubberke, Michael Madson and Carla Sacco. Thanks also to Al Jergens who joined us as our Council liaison.

The committee's responsibilities include the promotion of social responsibility within the Christian faith of our congregation. Another goal is to educate the congregation regarding needed action on social problems at the local, state, national and international levels. We strive to reach out to various individuals and groups within our community to increase our SALC members' awareness of these concerns - and are thankful for the involvement of Amanda Kress in obtaining educational materials on the Black Lives Matter movement for our Adult Forum zoom meetings. We are also grateful for the ministry that members of our committee and congregation provide by serving on the boards of local agencies that provide services to many needy individuals. Pat Thompson has been a dedicated member of the Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance Board (GNEAC) for several years - and has recently asked Mike Madson to return to this position. We are currently in need of a representative from SALC to serve as a member of the Ames Ecumenical Housing (AEH) Board, as Forrest Dubberke has found it necessary to step down after several years on the board. Ames Ecumenical Housing oversees the Keystone and Stonehaven low-income housing projects, and meets a considerable need for affordable housing in Story Co. Our committee encourages and supports the contribution of food that was delivered weekly to MICA before the pandemic, and throughout the year we designate our benevolence allocations to the following agencies: GNEAC, Bridge Home (previously known as the Ames Emergency Residence), MICA, Edwards Schools, ACCESS and AEH. In October we look forward to challenging our congregation to donating a couple of hours for a brisk walk in support of the annual CROP Walk, in addition to a generous donation of cash - but this year due to the COVID risks - the challenge was to raise the funds remotely - and we were proud of our congregation for their support in the amount of almost \$900.00.

Our SC Committee members have been very willing to help serve the Fellowship and Lenten responsibilities in the past - and this year we have missed these times of working together - and instead have conducted our business electronically - to our regret. We would welcome any new members to our committee, and I look forward to seeing each other again sometime in 2021 !

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Dubberke  
Social Concerns Committee Chair

## STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2020

The committee consisted of Don Behning, Linda Seaverson, and David Putz (Treasurer). This committee is very much in need of more members.

In addition, Heather Eddy, SALC Office Administrator & Communications Manager, and our accountant at Schnurr & Company, LLP, Thomas Grantham cover the bookkeeping work (Linda Seaverson fulfilled Heather Eddy's role from March -June). A big thank you to our Sunday income counters which helped until the church closure in March due to COVID19. Counters were Sarah Buck, Jon Christy, Laurie Evans, Glynn Frank, John & Carol Moran, Linda Seaverson, Gene & Miriam Takle. After the closure, Linda Seaverson took care of the weekly count and deposits.

Together we covered the following during 2020,

**Income-** Duties included the following: schedule weekly counters, record offerings per donor and various other income, make and verify deposits, communicate deposits with the accountants, maintain Simply Giving through VANCO, monitor member donation records, distribute contribution reports, and provide pledge acknowledgements.

**Expenses-** Duties included: collection of expense vouchers, weekly preparation of checks, mailing of checks, producing and verifying financial reports, and maintaining files. The committee monitors the expenses and sees that benevolences are paid.

**Monthly financial reports-** Thomas Grantham, Schnurr & Co. prepared most of the monthly reports. David and Linda monitor these reports for accuracy. David prepared a monthly congregation financial report to summarize activity and distributed the various monthly financial reports to the committees and council. See also the 2020 year-end financial reports.

**Tax filing** – Appropriate filings are prepared by Schnurr and monitored by the committee.

**Budget-** The approved 2020 budget was put in place after the Annual Meeting on January 26. In the fall, the committee collected the 2021 committee personnel budgets and 2021 pledges. A preliminary budget using the above was prepared for the Council and congregation. A Council approved 2021 budget will be presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting Jan. 24, 2021.

**Stewardship Campaign-** The Fall 2020 campaign was titled, "Faithful, Hopeful, Loving". The campaign ran from Oct. 11-Nov. 1. In lieu of a Commitment Sunday lunch, various committees donated some of their unused budget money to MICA with a total of \$1750.

**Insurance-** The commercial package insurance (includes church and rentals but the rentals reimburse the church for their coverage), workers compensation and umbrella insurance are reviewed and renew each May.

**CARES ACT Payroll Protection Plan (PPP)-** This federal government program was to help small businesses including churches cover salaries during the closures due to COVID 19. With Council approval, an application for a PPP loan of \$24,877.50 was submitted in March to First National Bank, Ames. Linda Seaverson prepared the application and monitored the constantly changing PPP guidance rules. The application was approved on April 8 and the money was received on April 16. The forgiveness application was submitted as soon as the rules were met and Small Business Administration began accepting the applications. The loan was forgiven on Oct. 30, 2020 so that St. Andrew's could keep the \$24,877.50 (essentially became a grant).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Seaverson, seaverson.linda@gmail.com

## **Tanzania Ministry Team: Annual Report: 2020**

TMT Mission Statement – To support the spiritual growth of the communities of St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church and Hedaru Lutheran Parish, we will build relationships through prayer, communication and communal support that seek to understand each other’s unique roles within the Body of Christ.

Tanzania Ministry Team’s goals are to work with Hedaru Lutheran Church to 1) oversee the companionship, 2) engage in activities that build relationships, 3) encourage faith-sharing between the churches, and 4) work on projects together.

Well, this certainly was not the year we planned for! But nonetheless, TMT did some grand things in your name.

Plant sale! Even though you could not see the plants at church, you came through and bought plants for the online Mother’s Day and Memorial Day sale. Thank you so much! We were not able to do the Easter Breakfast or other fundraisers this year, so we greatly appreciate your generosity for the sale.

We donated funds to build a roof-top rainwater catchment system for the village of Katahe. This village had no water at all, so the women had to make a dangerous walk to the river daily. We put gutters on the church and built a 35,000-liter rainwater holding tank. This catchment system will provide free water in the rainy season, and can hold purchased water during the dry season. This is a small village that is part of the Hedaru parish, with whom we are companioned.

Hedaru Lutheran Church is building an English-speaking elementary school named St. Andrew’s Education Institute. (What an honor to share our name!) The kindergarten has been very successful and they are up to 70 students! Next they are adding on to make other grades. We donated to help build the school, enough to make 4 new classrooms and 2 bathrooms. Hooray!

In other news from Hedaru, they have split their large parish into two smaller parishes, to be more manageable. The other parish is Agape. They both want to continue being our companions, so we officially have 2 companions now.

In 2021 we look forward to working on projects with Hedaru and Agape parishes, and are planning a joint ministry meeting online so we all can meet each other. Throughout the challenges of 2020, wonderful things continued to happen in our ministry, and we feel confident God will lead us to more wonderful things in the year to come.

As always, we wish to thank you, the people of St. Andrew’s for your continuing support of your time, your gifts, and most of all your never-ending prayers. We look forward to doing God’s work with our hands in 2021.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Putz, TMT chair

**WORSHIP AND ARTS**  
**2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

I ended our report last year with these words. “Although there are challenges ahead, we know that God is leading us.” Very prophetic words, and yes, God is leading us through this very challenging year.

Our last in person Worship Service was on March 8, 2020. We remember thinking that we would be planning a very powerful and celebratory service in July. Easter in July, I couldn’t wait. Here we are at the end on December and we have not yet had a chance to see each other in Worship. How we miss singing together and sharing the Peace, but God has a plan.

We would like to thank Steve, Sarah, Connie and Pastor Jeff. Because of their efforts, Worship continued every Sunday, live-stream.

We also must thank Blythe, Kris and Bruce who run our sound and video system. There would not be Worship without them. An updated system will be installed at the end of December. This will improve the Worship experience. What we have learned this year is that we will continue to live-stream, even when we are back together in the Sanctuary.

Thank you to the musicians and singers who faithfully show up every Sunday.

In conclusion, reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ, a call, a card or email.

Emanuel, God with us.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Johnson

Chair, Worship and Arts

## **Youth Committee – 2020 Annual Report**

**Committee Members** – Kaitlyn Schultz, Blythe Schultz

**Sunday School 6th – 12th Grade** – This group meets every Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour bible study on the gospel passage for the week. The youth study the bible using the 5 Lutheran questions (law an gospel, where is Jesus, Scripture interprets scripture, context, and public interpretation). Sunday School has continued to meet every week virtually since March.

**Confirmation 6th – 9th Grade** – Pastor Jeff taught this group throughout 2020. The confirmation class studies the small catechism and dives deeper into their faith and understanding of what it means to be Lutheran. Confirmation did not meet from March through September due to COVID and began meeting again in person (socially distanced with masks) in October. We have two confirmation students who should have been confirmed in November, but that celebration has been postponed until we can meet for church in person.

**Youth Group 9th – 12th Grade** – High school youth met each Wednesday from 7:00-8:00 for youth group. We continued to meet virtually from March through September and began meeting in person (socially distanced with masks on) in October. Virtual meetings continued over the summer as well in an effort to stay in touch. Summer youth group consisted of a book club on “What’s So Amazing About Grace”. The fall semester focused on living out our faith in the world. We were joined by two excellent guest speakers who have amazing stories to share about what living out your faith looks like.

**Weekly Family Dinner** – Each week (until in person meetings were cancelled in March) we cooked a full dinner for the youth before confirmation class and youth group. We ate and enjoyed some excellent community time from 6:30 – 7:00 each Wednesday.

**Summer Trips and Summer Camp** – Due to COVID, our high school summer trip and middle school confirmation camp were both canceled for 2020.

**Fund Raisers** – In 2020 the youth completed these fundraisers: Madrigal Dinner, Thanksgiving Pie Slice Donations. Thank you for all of your support!

**Birthdays** – Blythe and Kaitlyn want each of the youth to know how much they are valued and cared about! For each of their birthdays through March, Kaitlyn made the birthday treat they requested and brought it to share with the group. The group enjoyed everything from classic cakes to ice cream sundaes.

**Activities** – There were a variety of special activities through March 2020! Here are some of the highlights:

Lutheran Lakeside Lock-In – Our middle school youth attended a lock-in in Des Moines hosted by Lutheran Lakeside in February.

Youth Out To Lunch – Once a month through March, the youth group went out to lunch together at a place the youth choose. It is fun community time!

Summary from Blythe and Kaitlyn – 2020 was our fourth year with the youth of St. Andrew's. This past year has been challenging with the many hurdles COVID 19 has thrown our way. It was our goal to keep consistency and solid programming throughout the constant changes of this COVID 19 season. We intended to create both engaging and meaningful programs to help the youth to grow in their faith and relationship to God in spite of what is going on in the world. 2020 was a unique year and we look forward to meeting the challenges and changes of 2021.

#### **Sunday School/Adult Education - Susan Teas, Chair**

Due to COVID, Sunday School was unable to meet most of 2020. We were also unable to host most of our events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Rally Sunday, and the Christmas Program.

We were, however, able to contribute to purchasing multiple books for the Adult Forum topics that were chosen throughout the year for discussion during Zoom meetings to help increase our racial awareness as it pertains to the Lutheran faith.

**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church**  
**Ames, Iowa**  
**2020 Audit Committee Report**

Committee Members: Sarah Buck, Janeen Christy, Janet Dixon, Denise Link, Carol Moran, Tom Prochnow

The committee met three times to complete an audit of St. Andrew's 2020 financial records: July 6, 2020 to plan the audit scope and develop a list of records for review, November 4, 2020 to review the records, and November 5, 2020 to finalize the content of this report. The audit was completed based information for a partial year so that the Council could have our report before year-end.

We appreciate the cooperation and timely preparation of the records by Linda Seaverson and Heather Eddy. We commend Linda, Heather, and Treasurer David Putz and members of the Stewardship and Finance Committee. St. Andrew's finances are being managed by individuals who are accurate, thorough and diligent.

The committee's review of records included samples of the following:

- Minutes of the church council
- Income and expenses, including credit card records
- Balance sheets
- Automatic payments
- Offering counter records and instructions
- Records for all church accounts, including rental properties
- Loan and line of credit records
- Payroll records, including payroll tax payments
- Cares Act funds
- Boiler and facilities improvement fundraising and expenses

In general, we found the financial records to be complete, well organized, and accurate. No material deficiencies were noted. Recommendations were forwarded to church council regarding authorization of payments and procedures for automatic recurring payments.

Respectfully submitted,

The 2020 Audit Committee