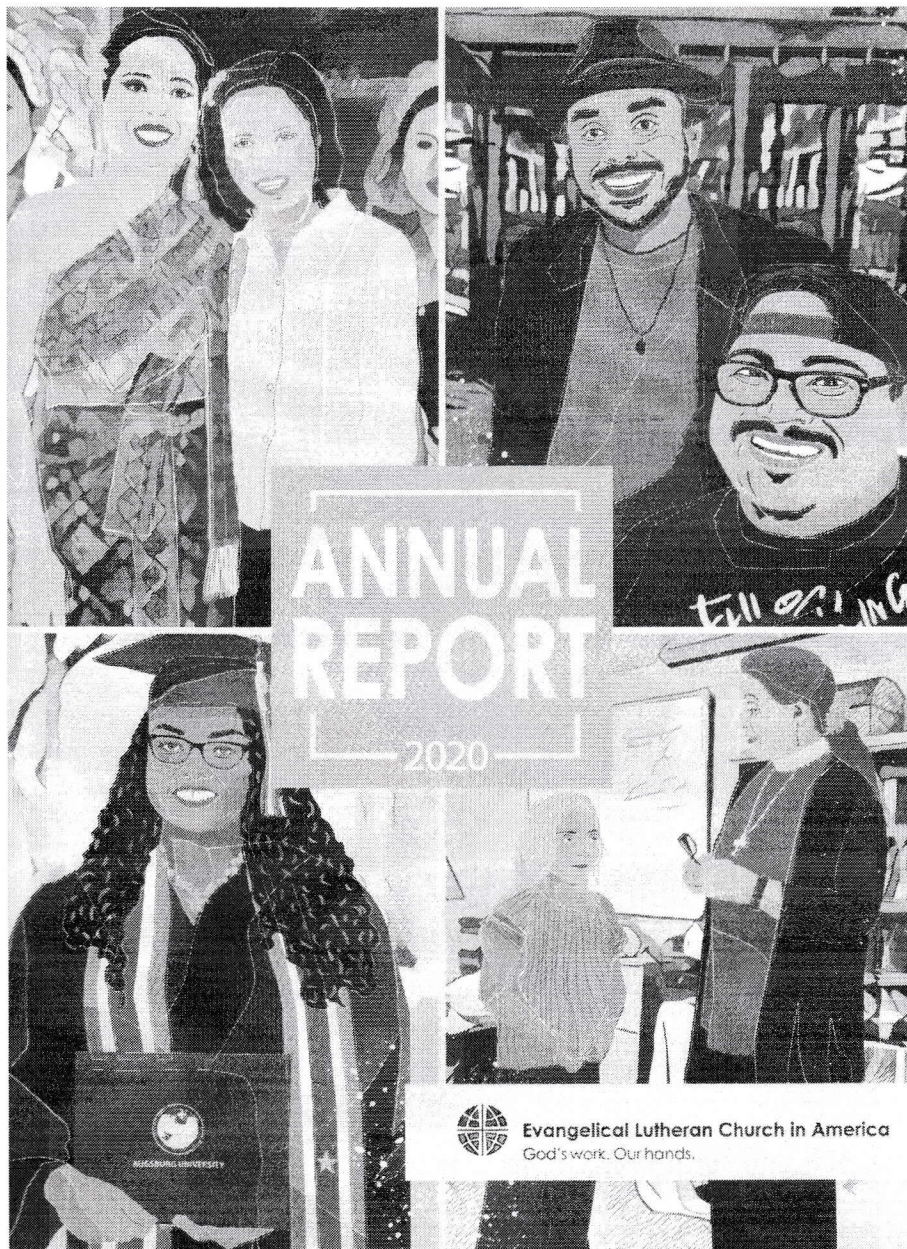


Butler Lutheran Church

Annual Report

January 31, 2021

(for the year 2020)



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

2020 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
Butler Lutheran Church

January 31, 2021

Approval of the minutes of last year's Annual Meeting.

Reports: Pastor's Report
Secretary's Report
Statistical Report
2021 Proposed Slate of Officers
Treasurer's Report
Bethesda Butler Parish Account for 2020
Bethesda Butler Proposed Budget for 2021
Sunday School Report - Luther League Report
Butler WELCA Treasurer's Report
Bishop's Letters
2019 SD Synod Budget
ELCA Mission Support Report
LSS Annual Report to Congregations

Elections: Church Officers

Old Business:

New Business:

Closing: Lord's Prayer

Hello Everyone,

This has been a different kind of year. We began the year by welcoming Liz Sigdestad to our staff as the new secretary. We also made it down to St. Dysmas so we could worship with the inmates on a snowy day. I believe we did not have to cancel anything in January due to weather, yeah! February rolled in bringing with it a blizzard but other than canceling Confirmation and Wednesday School one day the rest of the month was good. We even celebrated First Communion for five people. Then came March and with it Covid-19 and everything changed. Schools canceled classes and moved to on-line learning. SunDial began to restrict visitors even stopping visitation all together and we moved worship from in the sanctuary to gathering on-line. Zoom became the program of choice for any type of meeting, not my favorite way to communicate. We adopted, I began to learn and experiment with different ways of bringing worship to you. Thank you for your grace as it took a little bit to settle on FaceBook Live. I tell you, trying to record ahead of time to include powerpoint slides in order for us to have words to hymns and then editing everything to look good took way too much time and hair pulling as I tried to figure all that out.

Some how we survived and I settled on a simple worship using the same bulletin every week to help us settle into a pattern of worship that was both familiar and easy to follow. It worked and the most surprising thing was that the we began to reach people who lived far from Bristol, the Holy Spirit works in mysterious ways. This on-line ministry is something we plan on continuing. We were able to record our services and post them on our website so those who did not have Facebook could attend worship also. Eventually I created a Youtube page, BethesdaButler, where all of our services and children's sermons are archived. At some point in May I came to the realization that I needed to include a message for the kids and decided to have a separate time just for them. Wednesday was the day I chose and by doing this message separately I was able to be more creative as a way to engage with them. I have had fun with these messages and I hope you enjoyed them also.

We attempted to come together for worship in the sanctuary a couple of times throughout the summer but every time Covid-19 reared it's ugly head. Eventually we did begin meeting in the sanctuary while at the same time livestreaming our services. This brought new opportunities for us to overcome as we wanted people to see and hear the worship service. We bought some new equipment which has worked out well. Bethesda purchased a camera and then a tablet needed to run the camera and the picture and sound are much improved from just using my Ipad. Butler has installed internet service for the purpose of maintaining a better worship experience for those joining us via livestream.

Covid-19 has certainly affected how we do things. Now when we gather for worship we sit apart from each other, we wear masks, we don't sing and we don't gather in fellowship after the service. It has also affected how we say good bye to members of our communities. Funerals are now for family members only and we no longer serve a meal. Things will change by July or August we should have been offered a chance to be vaccinated and at that point some of our precautions will drop but we will still continue to have an on-line presence with our worship services and children's sermons.

This year I have presided over: 5 First Communions; 1 Confirmation; 6 Funerals; I continued to conduct a service at SunDial as often as I was allowed. I also visited with and brought communion to various members in their homes. I finished my term on the Synod council in May and attended many zoom meetings with colleagues around the synod.

Thank you for your grace,

Pastor Chris

Butler Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

February 2, 2020

Butler Lutheran Church annual meeting was February 2, 2020 having been postponed from January 19, 2020 due to weather. Gerald Anderson presided. Pastor Chris Strohm opened with prayer.

Secretary's report. Pat Sass read the minutes of the 2019 annual meeting. Michael Herr moved and Dennis Buhler seconded the motion to approve the secretary's report.

Pastor's report. Pastor Strohm reviewed his report. Churchwide assembly was in August. The wording of constitution is updated every three years. Nothing major was changed so it just needs to be voted on at an annual meeting. Will have it sorted out by the 2021 annual meeting. Luther League members will go to Minneapolis for youth gathering in July 2021. There are kids from Butler and Bethesda who will be eligible to go so there will be fundraising. Pastor and congregation acknowledged Tonia Whitmyre's years of service as church secretary. President Anderson and congregation thanked pastor for his service.

Statistical report. There were no comments. Tammie Herr moved and Lorraine Anderson seconded to approve the statistical report

Treasurer's report. Tammie Herr reported that we are holding our own. Interest from the CD from Allyce Espeland will be given to WELCA in the amount of \$1,000. Dennis Buhler moved and Julaine Busch seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Old Business. President Anderson thanked Glenn Flattum for snow removal and those involved in fixing the sewer.

New Business. Right now Bethesda and Butler are dividing expenses with Bethesday paying 60 percent and Butler paying 40 percent. Bristol contacted us requesting the split be 50/50. Butler council offered that Butler could pay 45 percent and Bethesda 55 percent which Bethesda agreed to. Tammie said it would raise our share of the salary \$1,500 and \$3,500 all together. Tammie feels

we can afford that. Kathy Buhler moved to accept the 45 percent/55 percent split with Tammie Herr seconded. Motion carried.

Mike Herr said the trustees will take care of lining up lawn mowing.

Mike Herr moved to leave benevolence giving at \$7,500 with same splits. Dennis Buhler seconded. Motion carried.

Lenten offering giving. Pastor stated that Pastor Will Olsen stated that Webster PACH has adequate funding and suggested that Groton and Langford would be able to use it. Dennis Buhler moved to give the donations to Groton and Langford's programs. Lorraine Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

Budget. Budget reflects the increase from to 45/55 percent, lower mileage costs and lower secretary's salary. Mike Herr moved and Dennis Buhler seconded to approve the budget. Motion carried.

Insurance. Mike and Tammie Herr met with the insurance agent. Agent felt we are covered adequately. Paul Halvorsen also talked over our coverage regarding fire and liability following Westside Wesleyan's fire.

Easter and lenten services. Easter worship at Butler will be at 8 a.m.; Ash Wednesday, 6 at Butler Feb. 26; Maundy Thursday 6 p.m. at Butler. Weekly Lenten services are at 6 p.m followed by a light meal during which confirmation meets.

Election of officers. President Anderson asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, Paul Halvorsen moved to accept nominations presented and cast a unanimous ballot. Mike Herr seconded. Motion carried.

Dennis Buhler moved to adjourn. Travis Antonsen seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Bethesda Butler Statistical Report

Calendar Year 2020

Members Transferred Out

None

Members Transferred In

None

Weddings

None

Baptisms

None

Confirmations

Kaden Stoks (Butler)

Deaths

Helen Vehe (Bethesda)

Harold Vehe (Bethesda)

Bob Raap (Bethesda)

Gary Anderson (Bethesda)

Nadine Sauer (Bethesda)

Betty Horter (Bethesda)

Burnell Huwe (Bethesda)

Bethesda Average Attendance 34* (last year 59)

Butler Average Attendance 30* (last year 43)

*Attendance was affected by Covid-19 pandemic

2021 Butler Lutheran Church Office Nominees

Pastor:	Chris Strohm
President:	Travis Antonsen
Vice President:	Gerald Anderson
Secretary:	Pat Sass
Treasurer:	Tamra Herr
Deacons:	Steve Witt Dennis Buhler
Trustees:	Paul Halverson Wes Nolte Michael Herr
Head User:	Dennis Buhler
Bethesda Home Board:	Linda Witt
Bethesda Home Annual Meeting Delegates:	Dennis and Kathy Buhler
Synod Convention Delegates:	Lyle and Julaine Busch
Nominating Committee:	Paul Halverson Steve Witt Carol Flattum
Joint Bethesda/Butler Council:	Travis Antonsen Gerald Anderson

2020 Annual Report-Butler Lutheran Church	
Income:	
Interest	47.94
Choice Dollars	1,220.00
Loose Offering	871.00
Offering	47,925.00
Misc: Lent (623.60) & coin folders (\$50)	673.60
Internet donations	600.00
Payroll Protection Plan	4,100.00
Interest on Mutal Funds for WELA	1,000.00
Patronage from Sioux Valley Coop	82.89
Missions--Lutheran Diaster	150.00
Flowers	18.00
Memorial--J. Nolte, V. Parks	45.00
Bethesda Lutheran-reimbursements on health insurance	428.64
Total Income:	57,162.07
Balance 1/1/2020	77,227.64
	134,389.71
Expenses:	
Wages: Pastor Chris Strohm & Medical insurance	12,781.53
Pension	7,390.63
Giving: (total is \$7,500) Needs Anonymous	2,000.00
Sun Dial	1,100.00
Bethesda Home	1,100.00
PACH (Webster)	250.00
BAGS (Groton)	250.00
St. Dysmas	500.00
SD Synod--General fund	800.00
Answer the call	500.00
Campus Ministires	500.00
Lutheran Outdoors	500.00
PACH (Webster)--Lent	224.53
BAGS (Groton)--Lent	224.53
Needs Anonymous (Food Pantry)--Lent	224.53
Insurance--North Star	828.00
Misc: Blossom Shop--lilies	28.00
Prairie Coteau-- (85) membership fees	17.00
Lutheran Diaster	150.00
Butler WELCA--interest from CD	1,000.00
Parish Account	4,584.24
Pianist	240.00
Repairs: Scott's Lumber--screen door handle	41.14
Supplies: Bethesda-wafers, confirmation	133.32
Tamra Herr--covid supplies, router	166.95
Augsburg-"Lutheran"	196.41
Utilities: Northwestern Engery	908.25
WEB	341.26
Fuel--LP	1,547.42
Total Expenses:	38,527.74
Balance 12/31/2020	95,861.97
	134,389.71

Parish Account Annual Report for year 2020

Beginning Balance January 1, 2020

\$1,684.71

RECEIPTS

Butler Church	\$	4,500.00	
Bethesda Church	\$	5,500.00	
Lenten Offerings	\$	588.00	
offering from live stream viewer	\$	50.00	
Bergen Lutheran Church - reimburse shared expenses	\$	113.25	
member matching gift for children's offering/LDR	\$	111.00	
Rain gauge offerings:			
LDR (2019)	\$	111.00	
Backpack programs	\$	60.95	
Sleep in Heavenly Peace	\$	295.00	
JVT credit	\$	14.24	
Bethesda reimbursed expense	\$	28.00	
Butler reimbursed expense	\$	28.00	
PPP loan for 2 months secretary wages	\$	1,333.32	
Total Receipts			\$ 12,732.76
Total Receipts with beginning balance			\$ 14,417.47

DISBURSEMENTS

Pastor's book allowance	\$	150.16	
Pastor's continuing ed	\$	194.00	
Pastor's medical reimbursement	\$	500.00	
Pastor's conference meetings	\$	-	
Pastor's automobile reimb	\$	-	
Secretary	\$	8,000.00	
Pulpit supply & mileage	\$	207.20	
Organists/pianists - Lent	\$	210.00	
office supplies	\$	505.33	
Church supplies	\$	542.01	
Church phone & internet	\$	1,031.22	
Copier use charge	\$	1,158.81	
Misc: stamps for treasurer	\$	33.00	
Flow through: for accounting purposes only			
Butler's 40% Lenten offering	\$	264.60	
Bethesda's 60% lenten offering	\$	323.40	
LDR	\$	222.00	
reimbursed expense	\$	56.00	
Backpack programs - Groton, Langford	\$	60.95	
Sleep in Heavenly Peace	\$	295.00	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			\$ 13,753.68
Balance December 31, 2020			\$ 663.79

Jill Hansmeier, Treasurer

Proposed Bethesda Butler Parish Budget 2021			
	2020	2020	2021
	Budget	expenses	Proposed
Pastor's professional/ book allowance	\$300.00	\$150.16	\$300.00
Pastor's continuing ed	\$400.00	\$194.00	\$400.00
Pastor's medical reimbursement	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Pastor's conference meetings	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Pastor's automobile reimb	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Secretary	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Pulpit supply & mileage	\$1,000.00	\$207.20	\$1,000.00
Organists/pianists - Lent \$35/service	\$280.00	\$210.00	\$280.00
Office supplies	\$1,200.00	\$505.33	\$1,200.00
church supplies	\$1,000.00	\$542.01	\$1,000.00
Church phone & internet	\$1,200.00	\$1,031.22	\$1,200.00
Copier	\$1,500.00	\$1,158.81	\$1,500.00
Misc.	\$300.00	\$89.00	\$300.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$18,680.00	\$12,587.73	\$18,680.00
Bethesda 55%			\$10,274.00
Butler 45%			\$8,406.00

BUTLER WELCA TREASURER'S REPORT 2020

Delores Whitmyre, Treasurer

RECEIPTS

WELCA/Circle Offerings	\$ 860.00
Donations	\$ 210.00
Donations - Quilt Shipping LWR	\$ 150.00
Family of Jason Nolte	\$ 150.00
Bible Study Books (8)	\$ 56.00
Raffle Tickets (2019)	\$ 70.00
Butler Church, CD Int.	\$ 1,000.00
Thankoffering	\$ 485.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 2,981.00
Balance on Hand 1-1-2020	\$ 602.95
	\$ 3,583.95

DISBURSEMENTS

Butler Altar Fund, Memorial - Jason Nolte	\$ 5.00
Bible Study Books (8)	\$ 56.00
Gift Card - Sigdestads(trucking LWR items)	\$ 40.00
World Hunger	\$ 400.00
WELCA Thankoffering	\$ 485.00
St. Dysmas in SD - Prison Ministry	\$ 200.00
NeSoDak Bible Camp	\$ 200.00
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$ 200.00
The Banquet, Sioux Falls	\$ 200.00
Webster Food Pantry	\$ 200.00
Needs Anonymous	\$ 200.00
PACH Program	\$ 250.00
Runners Club - Missionary Support	\$ 300.00
Devotionals - Our Daily Bread	\$ 100.00
Bethesda Home Foundation	\$ 100.00
Pastor Chris Strohm	\$ 50.00
Liz Sigdestad	\$ 50.00
Dennis Buhler - Mowing	\$ 25.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 3,061.00
Balance on Hand 12-31-2020	\$ 522.95
	\$ 3,583.95

BUTLER ALTAR FUND

RECEIPTS

Memorial: Jason Nolte	\$ 55.00
Balance 1-1-2020	\$ 174.04
	\$ 229.04

DISBURSEMENTS

Blossom Shoppe: 2 Lilies	\$ 28.00
Blossom Shoppe: Poinsettias	\$ 38.34
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 66.34
Balance on Hand 12-31-2020	\$ 162.70
	\$ 229.04

Bethesda-Butler Sunday School Account

BEGINNING BALANCE 1-1-2020 \$2,704.88

RECEIPTS:

Church Birthday Bank \$ 143.51
Donation \$ 200.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$ 343.51

DISBURSEMENTS:

Postage for Children's Bulletins \$ 390.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$390.00

ENDING BALANCE 12-31-2020 \$2,658.39

Pam Dylla, Treasurer

=====

Bethesda-Butler Luther League Account

BEGINNING BALANCE 1-1-2020 \$5,662.65

RECEIPTS:

None \$0.000.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$0,000.00

DISBURSEMENTS

None \$ 000.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$0,000.00

ENDING BALANCE 12-31-2020 \$5,662.65



South Dakota Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Dear Siblings in Christ of the South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

"But we had hoped" – is probably the most used phrase of 2020. However, this is also the phrase of the two disciples walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus after Christ's death and resurrection. While on the road wrestling with things

that they cannot understand, Jesus joins them on the road, sharing with them how all of these things rested in God all along. It is not until the breaking of the bread that the holy heartburn the two disciples felt all along propels them to run back to their friends to share that Christ truly is alive and not dead, and that therefore his followers need to live into the promise that they too are alive and that death has lost its power.

I cannot help but come to understand that this story is our story. It has always been our story, but 2020 has brought this story alive for me in new and profound ways. We too have found ourselves saying countless times this year, "but we had hoped." We too wrestled with the hard questions about what to make of the events of this past year as they unfolded in our life. We have wished many times to go "back to normal." As I heard from people, I invited them to expound on what going back to normal means to them. Creating this space allowed for a deeper reflection on who we are as people of God in South Dakota. Jesus accompanied the disciples on the road and shared scripture with them to open their eyes to God's continued provision and presence in the world. Even in the midst of these life-altering events of Christ's death and resurrection God is alive and at work. My staff and I have accompanied your community of faith during this life-altering pandemic assuring you that God's Holy Spirit is inspiring and sustaining.

Early on, we hosted weekly Zoom meetings for rostered and lay leaders. We continue these meetings on a monthly basis. Task forces were created to provide resources and training for congregations to continue ministry, such as "Canvas" an online resource platform and network for everything educational. Two worship documents and guidance were created: "Extending the Table, Expanding Participation" and "Come Let us Worship in a New Way." I can say that the pandemic and the challenges of living into a new way of being church has created some heartburn. Many may not call it a holy heartburn, but remember neither did the disciples until they sat at the table with Jesus and ate. Only when bread was broken, and wine was poured, did they remember the promises that God's got them and that they have nothing to fear. I pray that you too will come to recognize and interpret your heartburn as *holy heartburn* that empowers you to be church in a new and different way for the sake of the Gospel.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Now, as we move forward, let's commit ourselves to journey together in Christ, and in Christ alone.

C. Hagmaier

Journeying with you in Christ,
Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA





A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

Building up the body of Christ together,

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

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

South Dakota Synod
Mission Plan
02/01/2020 - 01/31/2021

	Adopted 2020	Revised 2020	Proposed 2021
INCOME			
MISSION SUPPORT FROM CONGREGATIONS	1,823,305	1,733,093	1,733,093
Program Ministry Income			
Pine Ridge Ministry Income	45,000	45,000	45,000
Other Income Streams			
SD Synod Mission Support	37,000	29,927	29,927
DEM Support Staff	10,000	10,000	10,000
Interest Income	7,500	8,000	8,000
SDS Transportation LLC Income	12,472	5,000	5,000
SDS Transportation/Plane Income	25,000	-	-
Misc Income	503	1,000	1,000
TOTAL INCOME	1,960,780	1,832,020	1,832,020
EXPENSES			
	Adopted 2020	Revised 2020	Proposed 2021
CHURCHWIDE MISSION			
Mission Support to ELCA	820,487	779,892	779,892
% of Mission Support	45.0%	45.0%	45.0%
Region III	8,702	7,626	7,626
SHARED MINISTRIES			
South Dakota Sustained Ministries			
Campus Ministry	128,919	122,177	122,177
Campus Ministry Capital	1,030	1,030	1,030
Lutheran Planned Giving	58,300	58,300	58,300
Heartland Ephphatha	6,325	5,994	5,994
Lutheran Youth Organization	3,605	3,605	3,605
South Dakota Supported Ministries			
SD Ministries Support	16,650	13,467	13,467
Luther Seminary	73,110	69,287	69,287
Lutheran Social Services	73,110	69,287	69,287
Lutherans Outdoors	36,462	34,555	34,555
Church Colleges	6,325	5,994	5,994
Chapel in the Hills	1	1	1
Good Samaritan Society	1	1	1
Total Shared Ministries	403,838	383,698	383,698
SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD MINISTRIES			
Staff Leadership			
Bishop	107,500	90,605	90,605
Associate Director of Evangelical Mission	10,606	6,528	6,528
Associate Mobility/Candidacy	89,017	74,394	74,394

**South Dakota Synod
Mission Plan
02/01/2020 - 01/31/2021**

Bishop/Associate Benefits	69,991	78,897	78,897
SDS Travel	35,734	20,500	20,000
Bishop/Assistants Travel & Cont Ed	18,800	16,300	16,299
Program Ministries			
Native American Ministry	74,265	79,248	77,748
Synod Youth Gathering Coordinator	15,814	6,959	6,959
Companion Synod Coordinator	11,993	12,315	12,065
Support Staff and Office			
Support Staff Salaries/Benefits	148,859	152,501	152,501
Resource Center Supplies	150	300	300
Synod Office Expenses	66,222	68,164	65,559
Augustana University	20,949	20,949	20,949
Synod Leadership			
Synod Council	7,000	7,000	5,500
Support to Ministries Committee	2,600	2,600	2,100
Candidacy Committee	4,500	4,500	3,750
Electronic Communications	1,750	1,750	1,750
Multicultural Ministry Committee	1,700	1,700	1,550
Companion Synods Ministry Committee	500	250	200
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500	1,500	1,350
Mission Strategy Committee	2,000	2,000	1,850
Ministry Projects			
Stewardship Project	500	500	-
Continuing Education Projects	250	-	-
Outreach Ministries			
Multicultural Center/Woyatan	15,000	16,500	16,000
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000	4,000	3,950
Companion Synods	500	500	-
Contingency			
	16,053	674	-
Subtotal SD Synod Ministries	727,753	671,134	660,804
Total Expense	1,960,780	1,842,350	1,832,020
Net Total	0	-10,330	0

The 2021 mission plan for the synod was discussed and proposed by the Synod Council in the absence of the Synod Assembly being able to convene and pass a mission plan during 2021. The mission plan is reflective of the Synod Council's hopes for how we, as the church, will be able to support and engage in ministry together, while recognizing the unusual uncertainty which began in 2020 and may continue in 2021. Accordingly, the Synod Council proposed a flat budget based upon the congregational statements of intended mission support for the 2020 mission plan year. No significant changes from the 2020 mission plan were proposed other than prudently planning to reduce meeting and leadership related expenses in order to propose a balanced 2021 mission plan.

In 2019, we listened to you and learned from you in order for us to care for you as the body of Christ in South Dakota. As we live into the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, many things that were said in 2019 are ever more present.

Here's what we found out:

What gives you joy?

- Music
- Multi-generational ministry opportunities
- Purposeful gatherings
- Purposeful volunteering
- The Gospel

What keeps you up at night?

- Economic hardships
- Polarization in our society
- Mental Health
- Fear for the future of "the Church"

How do you envision your relationship with the synod staff?

- Resources
- Relationships
- Programs
- Communication
- Faith Formation



Why even be "synod?"

- We are synod, because we are called to journey together in Christ. – Luke 24:13-35

How will we journey together in Christ?

- Relating with intentionality
 - Networking across the church
 - Equipping leaders for ministry
 - Sharing Leadership
- With confidence in Christ's Love for All.

"Fitting who we are into pews made for who we were."

– Participant from 2019 Listen, Learn and Care Event."

What we plan to do:

- Intentionality in our presence (site visits, accompaniment, West River presence, Disaster response through grants and presence)
- Community building opportunities (peer ministry, coaching, zoom groups, task forces, Synod Day)
- Resources (Red River Leadership partnership, Canvas platform faith formation curriculum, network of intentional interim pastors, Justice Table, worship resources, task forces, synod staff sermons, constitutional resources)
- Educational Opportunities (Region 3 Lay School, Psychological First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, Facebook Live Dwelling in the Word, Boundary workshops)

We are no longer the people we were when we left our buildings in March 2020, nor is the world around us – and it won't ever be. New life and possibilities have emerged. Let's embrace our current situation and reimagine it as a classroom. How would that reshape our experience today?

Come on the road with us. The journey awaits. Let's journey together in Christ.

journeywithfaith.org



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

2020 MINISTRY CELEBRATION



2020 was not at all what we expected it to be. Many of our expectations were not met, just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus confessed to Jesus, “we had hoped” for things but they went differently. Yet Jesus walked with the disciples, and the Holy Spirit has still been at work in South Dakota in 2020.

Here are some of the many projects that still took place, even though we might have hoped for something different.

All that, in the middle of a pandemic! All this work is possible because of the connections we have to each other. God has called us into ministry together, and many people have been generous with their different blessings of time, talents, and treasure.

We plan to continue to show up for you, no matter what 2021 holds for us. God promises us that we are not abandoned, and the body of Christ is the living testament to the world that God is here. Thank you for being part of the work as we Journey Together in Christ. Peace and blessings to you and your community.

Rev. Jonathan Steiner
Director for Evangelical Mission
Associate to the Bishop for
Stewardship & Outreach

journeywithfaith.org

- Knowing things were already tough at the start of 2020, we provided opportunities for **Mental Health First Aid and Psychological First Aid** in response to the farm stress crisis.
- **18 leaders** were trained as Peer Mentor Facilitators, creating four Peer Mentor Groups for our first call leaders to mutually support one another.
- The synod’s **Coaching Network** expanded, with a new cohort of coaches and further training options for existing coaches.
- Congregations and the synod were able to begin or expand **digital worship**, allowing us to proclaim the Gospel in a new way, and often reach new people.
- The synod is investing resources into Canvas, a **digital teaching platform** to help Christian Education be reformed in the midst of the pandemic.
- We started the **Justice Table**, a group of people committed to confronting racism in South Dakota, which will focus on Education, Advocacy, and Community Organizing.
- **Journeying Together in Christ**, the synod’s strategic vision plan, was created and rolled out after conversations with people across the synod.
- **A Worship Task Force** was created, which published guidelines and suggestions for worship during the pandemic.
- Despite cancelling Synod Assembly, we gathered digitally this Fall via the **Synod Day** event, and still celebrated our work together through speakers and worship.
- **A Faith Formation** task force was created to navigate options for congregations in different situations in the pandemic.
- We received numerous **grants** from our Lutheran partner organizations, including from the ELCA Domestic Mission Unit, Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA COVID Relief Fund, as well as numerous outside organizations.
- The **Storyteller Network** was launched as a group of people committed to telling ministry stories of what the Holy Spirit is up to in South Dakota through our ministries.

“Journeying Together in Christ.”

As a partner ministry of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, **Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota (LPGSD)** was created to join you on your journey to discover ways to create your **personal legacy plan**—one that expresses your faith in Christ with gratitude and generosity. LPGSD also walks alongside congregations hoping to create or revitalize their own legacy through an endowment fund, offering members the opportunity to share in the ministry and outreach of their Christian family. Walking and working together, we can create **greater impact** because of intentional plans and shared visions.



Lutheran Planned Generosity
of South Dakota

While the past year brought challenges and heartbreak, it also exposed genuine care and love for neighbor as many **shared from their abundance** to meet desperate needs created by the economics of a pandemic and the destruction of natural disasters.

Perhaps you are considering where your own **generosity journey** will lead in 2021. LPGSD would be honored to serve as your travel guide as you explore some of these destination options:

- ♦ **Income for You Now—Gifts to Ministry Later.** A charitable gift annuity provides you with fixed payments for life, with the remainder of the gift benefiting the ministries of your choice.
- ♦ **Gifts Beyond the Checkbook.** Grain, Cattle, Stocks, Mutual Funds, Real Estate—almost any appreciated asset can create a tax-efficient gift.
- ♦ **Qualified Charitable Distribution.** Use your IRA to make tax-free gifts and reduce your adjustable gross income, even if you no longer itemize deductions on your tax return.
- ♦ **Give It Twice Trust.** A tool to create income for you and/or your family **and** the ministries you care about, oftentimes doubling the impact of your assets because of the elimination of taxes.
- ♦ **Legacy Gifts.** Name your favorite ministries as beneficiaries on an insurance policy, a bank account or an IRA, or even your home via a life estate or TOD (transfer on death) designation.
- ♦ **Congregational Endowment and Gift Policies.**
 - ♦ *Newly updated* document templates
 - ♦ Workshops for individuals, church councils and endowment committees

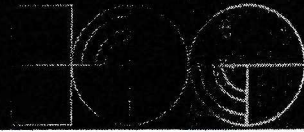
Ready for the journey?

Contact Kathy McHenry at **605.274.5030** or **kmchenry@sdsynod.org**.
Visit our website at **www.lpgsd.org** or find us on Facebook.

Regardless of your personal or financial situation,

your life can make a difference

ONE
PERSON
can make
an impact.



2020 Annual Report to Congregations

Life Stories Take Shape at LSS

LSS helps to transform the lives of people of all ages, faiths, races and economic status with professional, confidential and affordable services. With vital services offered statewide, LSS touched the lives of those we serve 38,099 times last year. LSS is where life stories take shape. We strive to care for, support and strengthen those in need, bringing clarity, stability, family and support to people of all ages, families of all kinds and communities of all sizes.



"I honestly don't know what we would be doing without LSS. The extra bit of normalcy is what matters most right now (COVID-19 pandemic). If my daughter didn't have routine, I think she would be more scared or confused about what is happening."
— first responder parents of children at LSS Childcare & Education Services

LSS has assisted with **4,184 ADOPTIONS SINCE 1920**. We are ready for a second century of service.

The COVID-19 pandemic created many challenges. LSS has reacted quickly, safely and compassionately to offer many of our services using telehealth technology. It is a good alternative for individuals and families experiencing overwhelming stress and anxiety associated with separation and isolation.

Clients receiving outpatient counseling experienced a **23%** reduction in symptoms from the first session to the fourth session.

LSS continues to improve its capacity to deliver trauma-informed care. **91%** of youth in Psychiatric Residential Treatment and **83%** of youth in Foster Care showed a reduction in trauma symptoms upon discharge.

85% of clients who received financial counseling reported reduced stress after their session. **88%** of clients participating in a debt management plan successfully completed their payments.

100% of the residents of the New Alternatives Intensive Independent Living Services improved their independent living skills and improved their overall wellness and health.

Youth who participate in the Arise Shelter Care are successful. **90%** of youth are discharged to safe and stable housing.

For 100 years, LSS has not just been about looking at one person and trying to help them with their situation, but coming from a bigger, more holistic picture. It's not just one person's life today, it's about what do we do to make things better into the future, for other people.

Betty Oldenkamp
President and CEO

How Your Gift is Used

