

First Lutheran Church

Hope, MN

2021 Annual Report



GROWING IN CHRIST.

SHARING HIS LOVE.

REACHING THE WORLD.



Member Congregation

**First Lutheran Church
Hope, Minnesota
2021 Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 23, 2022**

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AGENDA

1. Call to Order *Lisa Borchert*
2. Opening Worship *Sandy Brooks*
3. Opening Devotion *Pastor Sandy*
4. Approve Minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting *Lisa Borchert*
5. Pastor's Report *Pastor Sandy*
6. Council & Committee Reports - Questions & Comments *Lisa Borchert*
 - a. President's Report - *Lisa Borchert*
 - b. Board of Deacons Report - *Randy Borchert*
 - c. Board of Trustees Report - *Dave Jensen*
 - d. Finance Committee - *Raquel Hansen*
 - e. Audit Committee - *Kathy Peterson*
 - f. Benevolence Committee - *Raquel Hansen*
 - g. Board of Education - *Pastor Sandy*
 - h. Women of the Word - *Chris Jensen*
7. Pastor Transition and Call Process *Lisa Borchert*
8. Treasurer's Report - Income & Expense *Raquel Hansen*
 - a. 2021 Financial Review *Raquel Hansen*
 - 1) All Accounts - Questions & Comments
 - b. 2022 Budget Presentation & Approval *Raquel Hansen*
9. Nominations and Elections *Lisa Borchert*
 - a. Recognition and Appreciation of Service
 - b. Introduction of Candidates
 - c. Introduction of Council Members
 - d. Appoint 2022 Nominating Committee

**The President of the Congregation shall preside over the meeting.
We shall follow Robert's Rules of order for any procedural questions.**

2020 First Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2021

Call to order: Lisa Borchert, 26 in attendance

Opening Worship: Led by Sandy Brooks "We are the Church".

Devotions: Pastor Sandy Miller Hebrews 10: 19-25, 31-39. The full assurance of faith.

2019 Meeting Minutes Approval: Lisa Borchert

- Wendell Peterson made a motion to approve, AJ Pirkl seconded; motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Sandy Miller

- Referred to pages 8 & 9 in Annual Report.
- 2020 a year to remember.
 - Leaders came forward to help during COVID-19.
 - Recording of the online message has been reaching as many people as in person worship.
 - We all grew in faith; Pastor, leadership, and congregation, we need not fear hardships.
 - Global Ministry Partners: miracles are happening in the Congo; Home of Hope in Estonia is open with daily ministry.
 - Sandy thanked the leadership at First, Steve for his help, and for the privilege of serving First Lutheran. We are committed to provide worship on a weekly basis together in the future.
 - Sandy expressed thankfulness for the privilege of serving as pastor.

Council and Committee reports: Lisa Borchert

- Lisa pointed out pages 11-21 in the Annual Report and inquired if there were any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments.

Old Business

2020 Financial Review: Raquel Hansen

- Raquel referred the congregation to pages 23-25 in the Annual Report.
- Raquel thanked Steve Weigt for the smooth and solid transition into the position of treasure.
- Raquel thanked First Lutheran members for the generous Tithes and Offerings of \$117,000 through general and designated giving.
- 80% of households contributed. 19 of the 34 giving households increased their giving in 2020.
- Raquel reviewed the five accounts separate from the general account totaling \$20,850. The five accounts are Scrip Fund, Building Fund, Memorial Fund, WOW account and Y-HM.
- There were no questions or comments.

Constitutional Ratification: Lisa Borchert

- Lisa referred to page 22 in the Annual Report.
- Lisa pointed out that this was a formality of ratifying the constitutional changes as outlined on pages 4&5. These changes were voted on and approved at the 2019 Annual Meeting. The changes have been operating for the past 2 years with no problems.
- Randy Borchert made a motion to ratify the constitutional changes as presented. Richard Hansen seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Raquel Hansen

Income and Expenses

- Referred to pages 26 and 27 in the Annual Report.
- Total general offering was \$106,408 which was within \$4.00 of offering compared to last year.
- Additional designated giving amounted to \$10,615.
- We did not spend as much as we expected and spending was down by \$10,000 in the original projection.

- Reasons for the positive variance is due to cancelled mission trips, limited outreach, and fellowship because of COVID, changes in LCMC Conference and changes in our insurance plan.
- Benevolence increased by \$2000.00 because of a decrease in expenses.
- PPP Loan of \$12,917 was received in April. We applied for forgiveness and the loan transitioned into a grant.
- Raquel asked for questions and comments. No questions or comments.

Pastoral Compensation Goals: Lisa Borchert

- Jim Springer, Raquel Hansen, and Lisa Borchert met to research and make recommendations for Pastoral compensation. The committee recommended and offered a 2.3% increase in Pastoral salary.
- The council discussed and unanimously approved a 2.3% increase.
- Lisa asked for questions and comments. No comments or questions.
- Wendell Peterson made a motion to accept the recommendation of the council for a 2.3% salary increase. Dave Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

2021 Budget Presentation and Approval: Raquel Hansen

- A budget of \$102,940 was presented.
- This is lower than actual offerings but higher than actual expenses by \$600.00.
- Key changes
 - Due to uncertainty as to when we can extend outreach and fellowship, additional funds were added in comparison to actual spending.
 - There is no allocation for youth or adult mission trips due to COVID-19.
 - LCMC funds for annual meeting was added.
 - Changes in insurance plan was an \$800.00 yearly savings.
- AJ Pirkl made a motion to accept the 2021 budget. Amanda Buzzard seconded. Motion carried.

Nominations and Elections: Lisa Borchert

- Lisa gave recognition and appreciation of service to Kim Pirkl, Board of Education, Kathy Streif, Deacon
- Introduction of Candidates
 - Dave Jensen, Trustee; Rhonda Nappin, Deacon; John Pirkl, Board of Education
- Todd Hansen made a motion to accept the slate of candidates. Warren Suchanek seconded. Motion carried.

Introduction of Council members

Lisa Borchert-President	Jim Springer-Vice President
Raquel Hansen-Treasurer	Mary Arfmann-Secretary
Randy Borchert-Deacon	Dave Jensen-Trustee
Rhonda Nappin- Deacon	Wendell Peterson-Trustee
Steve Miller-Deacon	Todd Hansen-Trustee

Nominations and Election of 2021 Nominating Committee

- Nomination for the committee include Amanda Buzzard, Joey Pirkl, Warren Suchanek
 - Raquel Hansen made a motion to accept the slate of candidates for the nominating committee for 2021. AJ Pirkl seconded. Motion carried.

Close of Meeting

- Dave Jensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Karlene Hansen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Closed in Prayer by Pastor Sandy

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Arfmann, Secretary

2022 Calendar

January 4-6			LCMC Three Days of Prayer
January 23	Sunday	10:30 am	Annual Meeting, Potluck Pastor Sandy's Retirement
March 2	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
March 9	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
March 16	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
March 23	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
March 30	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
April 6	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
April 10	Sunday	9:00 am	Palm Sunday
April 14	Thursday	6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
April 15	Friday	6:30 pm	Good Friday Service
April 17	Sunday	9:00 am	Easter Service w/Communion
Oct. 2-5	Sun-Wed		LCMC Annual Gathering Lakeville, MN
Oct 16	Sunday	3:00 pm	Meatball Supper
Nov 23	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service
Nov 25	Friday	8:30 am	Decorate for Advent
Nov 27	Sunday	9:00 am	First Sunday of Advent
Dec 24	Saturday	4:30 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

2022 CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Confirmed	Baptized	Last Name	First Name
2	2	*Anderson	Charlie & Carol
1	1	Arfmann	Mary
2	2	Armstrong	Dennis & Dawn
1	3	Arnett	Alyssa (Aspen, Aiden)
1	2	Betters	Amanda (Jerod Battey)
2	2	Borchert	Randy & Lisa
1	1	Brekke	Nancy
1	2	Buzzard	Amanda (Alayna DuShane)
1	1	Clementson	Jan
2	2	Hansen	Richard & Karlene
2	2	Hansen	Todd & Raquel
1	1	Harlicker	Cheryl
1	1	Harty	Kathy
1	1	Hoelz	Mary
1	1	Hrdlicka	Barbara
2	2	*Ingvaldson	Jon & Michelle
1	1	Jensen	Steve
2	2	Jensen	David & Chris
1	1	Krause	Jim
1	1	Kuckenbecker	David
2	2	Larson	Gene & Audrey
2	2	Luedtke	David & Pam Bartz
2	4	Malepsy	Anthony & Jennifer (Coen & Rhett)
2	2	Matthees	Doug & Carole
2	2	Meixner	Marvin & Beverly
2	2	Miller	Pastor Sandy & Steve
3	3	Nappin	Rhonda (Dakota, Danielle)
2	2	Nelson	Harvey & Anna
1	2	Olson	Angela (Jadan Young)
2	2	Peterson	Wendell & Kathy
4	4	Pirkl	John & Kim (Andrew & Joseph)
1	2	Pool	Buzz (Maryn)
2	2	Prokopec	Richard & Diane Schmidtke
1	2	Ramsey	Carissa (Caspian)
2	2	Schwartz	Gary & Dawn
2	2	Shankland	Dean & JoAnn
2	3	Skalicky	Jarrold & Jacquelyn (Jerome)
2	2	Skalicky	Steve & Darla
1	1	Skalicky	Jack
1	1	Smuland	Sylvia
2	2	Springer	Jim & Lori
1	1	Streiff	Kathy
1	1	Suchanek	Velma
1	1	Suchanek	Warren
1	1	Thompson	Jim
1	3	Thompson	Ron (Andrea & Bobby)
2	2	Weigt	Steven & Ruth
1	1	*Wilker	Carol
75	87		

PASTOR'S REPORT

GROWING IN CHRIST. SHARING HIS LOVE. REACHING THE WORLD.

To the saints of **First Lutheran Church in Hope**, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, (Eph 1:1-2) (*emphasis mine*)

It seems like we say it every year, but what a year it's been! At the beginning of 2021, we felt God leading us into a year of 'reinstating'. That was the word we heard. Reinstatement. And reinstatement we did! We reinstated all of the following ministries: Prayer Ministry on Sunday morning; Bible Studies; Childcare Ministry; numerous Fellowship and Outreach opportunities; and while it wasn't on our radar at the time, we were so blessed to reinstate Sunday School in the fall. In many ways, we are back to life and ministry as normal and for that, I am grateful.

At the same time, things are not back to normal. There are still people who have not come back to worship. We've also experienced how the pandemic has affected the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of many we love and care about, particularly the elderly and those with risk factors. For this, I am sad as I realize how our culture and world events really *can* affect the state of our physical, emotional, and spiritual health, as well as our ability, and even desire, to gather. So while some things feel 'back to normal', other things are definitely *not* normal (even though I try to deny or fight that tooth and nail!).

And so we adjust. We lean into God and ask hard questions. And we determine as the apostle Paul did to "*forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead, pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*" Friends, this is something we cannot give up on. We simply *must* press on, fighting for our faith and determining to preach and proclaim the Gospel to the best of our ability wherever we can and for as long as we are given grace to do so.

In saying that, I am so blessed to serve a congregation who supports that vision – one who is actively **Growing in Christ. Sharing His Love. And Reaching the World.** The people of First Lutheran are committed to making Sunday mornings worshipful, Spirit-filled, and Christ-focused. You seemingly will not settle for anything contrary to the Word of God, and for that, I am grateful! *Never* settle for anything less!! You are willing to serve where and when needed, and delight in connecting with and reaching out to both old and new friends. You are generous in your giving, supporting the ministry of First Lutheran and beyond. Together, we are the body of Christ and making a positive impact in the Kingdom of God!

So maybe you're asking yourself, 'is she going to address the elephant in the room'? Well, here it goes. On September 5, 2021 I announced my retirement from serving as your pastor to be effective Sunday, January 23, 2022. As you can imagine, this was not an easy decision, but one that came with much prayer and wrestling. I love all of you so much! I love worshiping with you, studying God's Word with you, fellowshiping with you, and serving with you. There's not a one of you that I don't look forward to seeing and connecting with on a regular basis. And yet, there is a season for everything.

I've had the wonderful privilege of serving the congregation of First Lutheran for 10-1/2 years. The LORD has done *a lot* in that time!! And so not only am I at 'retirement age', I feel as though I've done what God has called me to do. It's now time to pass the baton to the next pastor of First Lutheran who will have new energy and a fresh vision for ministry. My hope and prayer for all of you is that you will stay faithful and prayerful during this transition, trusting that the LORD has something great in store for you! I fully believe that He does!

While my retirement was difficult news to receive at first, the Holy Spirit started doing the work that only He can do, empowering our Council leaders/Transition team for the work that needed to be done. He instilled in them an appreciation for the past, along with a deep and abiding hope and even excitement for the future. In addition, He has bound them together in a well-working machine, each one bringing something to this process with the gifts God has given them. Their commitment to God, to each other, and to the congregation of First Lutheran is both humbling and admirable. All of this gives me a great sense of peace that I heard God rightly, and that you are all in good hands, both from above and in your leadership team.

By the time you read this letter, my time at First Lutheran will be very short or possibly even complete. Know that I will go through a time of grief, and you may as well. Both Steve and I will miss the relationships that we have with all of you as you truly are our relational network. We will forever remember the wonderful times we had together and how the LORD worked in and through all of us together. I know you've probably heard the story of when I answered the call to serve God, I said 'yes, LORD! I'll do anything but be a pastor'. Well, now I can't imagine *anything but* being a pastor. It's been one of greatest challenges of my life, but it's also been an experience that has brought spiritual growth and inexpressable joy!

So, thank you. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the love, encouragement, and support that you've shown me through the years. Thank you for blessing me with your testimonies of how God has been working in your life. Thank your for trusting me to be a part of your most holy and sacred moments – births, baptisms, death, loss, as well as the joys and sorrows of daily life. Thank you for the privilege of praying for you and with you. Thank you for your grace, your patience, and your kindness. It's made an irremovable impression on my life.

As I leave, I'd like to suggest that we not say 'good-bye', but rather 'see you around' as we're not going far. We'll still see each other around here and there. At the same time, it's important that we give the Interim Team and the new pastor the opportunity they deserve to connect with you and experience all of the wonderful blessings that Steve and I did in serving you.

I leave you with the words of the apostle Paul. *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you."* Philippians 4:4-9

In His JOY ~

Pastor Sandy

2021 OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptisms (4)

Aiden Allen Arnett	1/10/2021
Taitym Stephanie Haworth	11/14/2021
Zoey Karlene Hansen	11/14/2021
Caspian Phillip Ramsey	12/26/2021

Confirmed (0)

Memorial Service (1)

Janet Thompson	7/28/2021
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Wedding (0)

Membership Statistics as of Dec. 31, 2021

Total Members	82
Total Associate Members	5
Total Households (Members & Associates)	48
Total Giving Households (Members & Associates)	33
Average Worship Attendance	39

New Members Received (0)

Members No Longer Active (0)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you His peace at all times and in every situation.

The Lord be with you all. 2 Thessalonians 3:16 (NLT)

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace be with you all! Did you know that peace is mentioned in the bible over 300 times depending on which version you are reading? Why is that? It's because God wants it to be clear to us that when we walk with Him daily, He will pour out His peace on us! It's something I have been thinking about a lot this past year as I strive to cast my cares and worries onto our Lord, letting Him lead me daily where He needs me. Pastor Sandy recently shared a message on peace. She told us that peace isn't the absence of conflict, instead peace is having complete faith in God in the middle of conflict and recognizing that He is there for us offering His love and guidance to get us through each day. As I look back over 2021, and all the angst in our society, I feel that now more than ever we all need to be searching for God's peace in our daily walk. And I feel we have been blessed with exactly that! Throughout 2021 I have seen a continual outpouring of our congregation working and serving together to bring glory to God.

This year God re-instated some pockets of normalcy! We started to gather again for events! Wasn't it great to be in community again? Yes, it was!! We gathered in the church basement, in the sanctuary, in people's homes, and even in a barn to celebrate special events and enjoy meals together. In June God brought us the opportunity to host a celebration for Pastor Bob Mankaka to celebrate the completion of his Master's of Divinity degree, it was a truly blessed day! In July we gathered at the Borchert farm for our annual church picnic with great food, games, and fellowship. In August we tapped our toes and clapped our hands to the awesome music of Cabin Fever. In September we hosted the MN Adult and Teen challenge and blessed them with a delicious breakfast, but as always it feels like they blessed us WAY more than we blessed them! And in December we caroled, bringing some Christmas cheer to those who are not able to easily get out and about. It has felt so good to be back in full fellowship with all of you again!!

2021 also brought the announcement of Pastor Sandy's retirement. I know this has been weighing heavy on many of our hearts ever since we heard the news. It has been eye opening for me to be a part of the call process. Watching God at work through our council members, through those He has called to be on our Call Committee, and through our congregation. He is accomplishing His work through our diligence to stay connected to Him through the prayers that are being sent up by all of us during this season of transition and change. He is definitely hearing our prayers and blessing us with His guidance. An interesting fact that I learned about transitions and seasons of change, is that they start with an ending and end with a beginning. I had never thought of that before, but it makes sense. As God closes our chapter with Pastor Sandy, He will guide and lead us through the next season with our Interim Pastor. And finally, He will bring us to our next chapter with the new Pastor that He has called forth to lead us here at First Lutheran Church in Hope.

I can't help but thank God for all of you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing! And I pray that as we enter into 2022 that our theme verse, ***Romans 15:13; May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope***, will resonate an even deeper peace for you in your walk with our Lord.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Borchert, Council President

BOARD OF DEACONS REPORT

Greetings fellow children of God. How blessed are we to call God our Father?

In 2021 we were blessed with Rhonda Nappin joining the Board of Deacons working alongside of Randy Borchert and Steve Miller.

We met quarterly to discuss our spiritual growth as a church, along with our bible studies, prayer ministries, child care, Sunday School and outreach to our congregation and to our global missions.

We worked with the Men's Bible study putting together the LCMC Three Days of Prayer, offering an evening Prayer Service on January 7th where we gathered to be in community prayer.

We continue to offer Prayer Ministry on the first and third Sundays of each month during communion and after service, which has been well received by those in need of prayer. 2021 allowed us to keep the doors of the church open through Covid-19 and all its variants. This fall God blessed us with reinstating our Sunday School Program. It is being run by Rhonda Nappin and her two daughters, Alyssa Arnett and Carissa Ramsey. We have seven children learning about God and His messages in the bible—if you are here when they are gathering in the basement you've seen and heard the excitement of their learning!

On October 3-6, Pastor Sandy and Mary Arfmann attended the annual LCMC gathering held in Columbus, Ohio. This year's theme was *Speak it, Live it, Share it*. It was a spiritually rewarding experience for both of them!

We were blessed this year in our Pulpit supply with messages given by Pastor Patty Sigford, Pastor Deborah Lunde, and council member Jim Springer during Pastor Sandy's vacations, giving us the opportunity to work alongside all of them in preparing and putting together that week's service.

With Pastor Sandy's retirement she has come alongside of us to better prepare us to provide a continuation of services for our congregation's spiritual needs during this time of transition and change.

It is our hope and prayer we, Deacons, continue growing in our own relationship with Christ, better preparing us for our role as your Deacons, prayerfully seeking God's guidance in leading our congregation to be one that is growing in spiritual maturity.

Respectfully Submitted by

Randy Borchert, Lead Deacon

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Church is so blessed! Once again God provided us with everything that we needed.

New dampeners were installed in the duct work by Dave Lax of Central Heating and AC. He donated his labor. Thank you Dave.

The southwest corner of the kitchen was rearranged, painted and a new light was installed. It looks much better now. Thanks to Wendell and Todd for painting the walls.

Thanks to Todd, Jim, Charlie, Jack, Cheryl and Dave for mowing our lawn this past year.

To all of you who showed up on our annual clean up day: Thank you. Also thank you to Raquel and Todd for providing the food.

We added mulch to the south and west side of the church. Thank you Todd for delivering the mulch.

Thank you to Wendell for painting the trim around the windows on the south side of the church.

New storm windows were installed on the North side of the church. Thanks to Todd for the use of your tractor and bucket. Thanks to Randy for getting the glass for the windows.

Thank you also to Steve Weigt for rebuilding and installing the northeast window.

Thank you to Chuck Schuler for plowing our parking lot.

Thank you to Carol Wilker for taking care of the flowers and shrubs.

Thank you, Jim Springer, for taking care of our sidewalks by making sure they are clear of snow and ice. Thanks also Jim for helping the Board of Trustees whenever we need an extra hand.

Also to anyone who helped in any way through out the year: thank you for your time and efforts.

Thank you to Pastor Sandy for taking the minutes at all of the Board of Trustee meetings all of these years.

Thank you to Todd and Wendell for always being willing to help with what ever needs to be done.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Jensen

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We are blessed! Every month during the past year the Finance Committee continues to thank the Lord for the offerings of the congregation, especially as we hear the challenges and struggles other churches have had since the pandemic.

We far exceeded our tithes and offerings in comparison to the prior two years, thankful for 20 households providing increased giving from 2020 to 2021 and blessed by a few large offerings from members who invested in God by giving through their hearts. We far exceeded the expectations set out a year ago, with overall annual tithes and offerings at \$116,104. This is almost \$10,000 above the 2020 year! **Thank you** to everyone for your continued giving and your prayers.

Expenses were comparable to projection—with the help of the Scrip account profits on the window restoration project, we came within approximately \$100 of projected expenses. Total expenses out of the General Fund were \$103,044.

During the year, we have various opportunities for additional offerings including \$8,797 contributed to Tartu: Home of Hope; Pastor Bob Mankaka and his wife Paola supporting their vision of a women's shelter in Congo of \$3,860; and \$1,923 contributed to Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge. First Lutheran Church also received free will offerings for various ministries such as Area Food Shelves and Mission Mexico. It is humbling how generously our congregation gives in addition to church offerings.

The Finance Committee consists of Randy Borchert, Jim Springer, and Raquel Hansen, with support at meetings from Pastor Sandy and Council President Lisa Borchert. The committee continues to monitor the finances to stay on budget and be good stewards of our finances. We anticipate many challenges will continue to face the congregation during this next year as we make a pastoral transition. We trust God will provide for all we need and continue to bless us. Thank you to all families who continue to step out in faith to give generously to fulfill God's purpose.

Respectfully Submitted,

Raquel Hansen, Treasurer

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.” Malachi 3:10

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Warren Suchanek, Darla Skalicky, Kathy Peterson

PURPOSE: To audit the checking accounts of First Lutheran

DATE COMPLETED: December 13, 2021

FINDINGS:

- The committee reviewed several deposits and matched the Sunday offering accordingly. Each offering we reviewed was accounted for and recorded appropriately on the tally sheet and the checking account.
- A review of several distributions from the General Account matched the invoices that were provided.
- All reconciliation reports were done in a timely fashion and accounted for in the General Account.
- Timeliness of deposits was noted as monies are deposited same day.
- Raquel has access to all accounts online and also saves a copy of the electronic bank statements.
- Raquel made some changes to her process and has now eliminated the need to double entry everything. Six QuickBook reports are exported into Excel to create the six reports that are reviewed on a monthly basis by the Finance Committee and Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

- Raquel will now be ordering all church supplies with Sandy's retirement. She will issue an expense request and asked for our recommendation since she is also writing the check for all reimbursements. It was recommended that one of the Council approve her expense reimbursement request.

SUBMITTED BY: Warren Suchanek, Darla Skalicky, Kathy Peterson

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

First Lutheran is committed to giving a minimum of 10% of our general offerings in Benevolence each year. What is 'benevolence'? It's giving to organizations and ministries that help fulfill the purposes of God and advance His Kingdom. This includes a variety of things from area food shelves, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, Christian radio, and global outreach just to name a few.

The Benevolence Committee consisted of Raquel Hansen and Pastor Sandy, with both of their terms dissolving at the end of the year. Randy Borchert has been appointed by the council to lead this committee during the next year. This is a very rewarding and purposeful committee that ideally would have additional member(s) willing to serve for 3-year terms. We meet on a quarterly basis where we, first of all, give thanks to God for His many blessings, and then we pray about how the monies should be directed. We then make a recommendation to Council who approves the final distribution.

Following is a summary of our 2021 Benevolence giving followed by a detailed report on the next page.

Local Ministries	\$4,300	38%
Regional Ministries	\$1,555	14%
Global Ministries	\$3,600	32%
LCMC Association	\$1,190	10%
Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 800	6%
TOTAL	\$11,445	

We look forward to another year of generous and sacrificial giving on the part of our congregation which will in turn allow us to continue sowing generously into the Kingdom of God. We may be small, but we are mighty in Christ!

Respectfully Submitted,

Raquel Hansen

2021 BENEVOLENCE SUMMARY

	1st Qtr Giving (4th Qtr Offering)	2nd Qtr Giving (1st Qtr Offering)	3rd Qtr Giving (2nd Qtr Offering)	4th Qtr Giving (3rd Qtr Offering)	YTD
	\$27,067	\$26,715	\$27,566	\$34,217	\$115,565
	\$2,707	\$2,672	\$2,757	\$3,422	\$11,557
<u>Local - (approx. 50%)</u>					
Koda Living Community Foundation	\$150			\$225	
Hospitality House		\$200			
Rachel's Light		\$200			
Salvation Army	\$200			\$225	
KJLY - Owatonna	\$200			\$225	
Beds for Kids	\$200			\$225	
Crisis Resource Center			\$200		
Transitional Housing			\$200		
Pregnancy Options		\$150			
Ellendale Food Shelf		\$200		\$250	
Steele County Food Shelf		\$200		\$250	
Ministerial Emergency Fund	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
TOTAL	\$950	\$1,150	\$600	\$1,600	
LOCAL YTD TOTAL					\$4,300
<u>Regional - (approx. 20%)</u>					
Marie Sandvik Center	\$200			\$250	
KJLY			\$100		
Master's Institute			\$250		
Source Ministries	\$200			\$125	
Minnesota Teen Challenge		\$180	\$250		
TOTAL	\$400	\$180	\$600	\$375	
REGIONAL YTD TOTAL					\$1,555
<u>Global - (approx. 20%)</u>					
Pastor Peter Sewakiryanga					
Pastor Bob Mankaka	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	
TAT: Home of Hope	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	
Mission Mexico International	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	
TOTAL	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	
GLOBAL YTD TOTAL					\$3,600
<u>Denomination - 10%</u>					
LCMC	\$270	\$270	\$300	\$350	
TOTAL	\$270	\$270	\$300	\$350	
DENOMINATION YTD TOTAL					\$1,190
Good Samaritan Fund	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE/QUARTER	\$2,720	\$2,700	\$2,600	\$3,425	
YTD TOTAL BENEVOLENCE					\$11,445

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

The goal of the Board of Education is to provide opportunities for our congregation to grow in their faith through the study of God's Word. This includes study of all ages from school age to adult. Thank you to Lori Springer and John Pirkl who have faithfully served this past year.

Let's start with the best highlight of our year when it comes to education. **Sunday School** was reinstated in September of this year!!! Praise God!!! Thanks to Rhonda Nappin who saw a need, and then offered her time and talent to meet that need, we have a full blown Sunday School program that is in full swing! Granted, it's a small group, but nonetheless, we have teachers and children and parents who are eager to support this important aspect of faith education for our children. A huge thank you to our teachers, Rhonda Nappin, Alyssa Arnett, and Carissa Nappin. They are proving to be faithful, creative, and enthusiastic in their lesson preparation and presentation. After reviewing a couple of different curriculums, we landed on the **Spark All Kids** curriculum by Sparkhouse that's appropriate for the number and ages of the children we have. So far, all is going well! Again, we are so grateful for the children, the teachers, and the parents who all had a part in launching a successful Sunday School program this past fall.

Our adult education opportunities continued strong throughout the year. We continued on in our **"Gospel Project"** series on Sunday morning, completing it in December. **Men's Bible study** also continues on Saturday morning with a faithful group of men, but always open to others who would like to join them!

Our weekday adult studies this year included a winter study called **"Trustworthy"** by Lisa TerKuerst and led by Lisa Borchert. This 7-week study focused on trusting God in difficult times using 1 & 2 Kings as our text. Our 9-week summer study **"Finding God Faithful"** by Kelly Minter and also led by Lisa, followed the life of Joseph which gave us even more perspective on how to trust God and remain faithful in difficult times. Finally, we brought back Henry Blackaby's study **"Experiencing God"**, a very practical study that focuses on experiencing God to the fullest through an intimate, personal love relationship with Him through Jesus Christ, and then learning to see where God is at work, and then *joining* Him in the work He is calling us to.

We're happy to say that Randy Borchert and Mary Arfmann completed the **"Discipleship Essentials"** disciple-making course with Jim Springer & Pastor Sandy. We commend them on this one year commitment to study and grow in their desire and commitment to learn more fully what it means to live as a disciple of Christ.

While we are extremely grateful for the people who love God's Word and faithfully gather to study, it's our continuous prayer that others would also join in and discover the joy and excitement of learning and growing in our faith as God's Word literally comes to life and transforms our lives.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Sandy

2021 Y-HM FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance as of January 1, 2021		\$1,906.25
Income		
Jams/Jellies	\$224.55	
	Total Income	\$224.55
Expenses		
None		
	Total Expenses	\$ -
Balance as of December 31, 2021		\$2,130.80

Submitted by Pastor Sandy Miller

WOMEN OF THE WORD REPORT

As COVID has lingered on, Women of the Word or WOW did not meet quarterly.

Lenten suppers were again canceled this year. Sunday morning fellowship following church service resumed in June with the service groups bringing treats. Thank you to all the service group leaders and groups for providing treats following church service and for special events throughout the year.

The women from MN Adult and Teen Challenge were here in September with a brunch following the worship service. Thank you Kathy Peterson WOW President and group leader, the Faith group and all who helped with the brunch.

The Meatball Supper that is usually held in October was canceled.

On November 6th the Charity Bazaar was held. Some area churches chose not to attend. Thanks to Lori Springer for again coordinating this event. We were able to raise \$1,111.30 which included sales and donations. Proceeds to go to Afghanistan Crisis Children's Relief.

November was a busy month with First Lutheran praying for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes on the 18th. WOW once again covered some of the postage/fees to send the boxes with the congregation donating items and postage for the boxes as well.

November 21st was our Thank Offering with Vickie Skala from Community Pathways speaking to our church. The congregation as always supported this event well with \$805 going to Community Pathways.

November 24th the Love group (Amanda Betters group co-leader) provided pie and coffee following the Thanksgiving Eve service.

On November 26th we decorated the church for Christmas. Thank you to Ministry Coordinators Lori Springer and Raquel Hansen and all who helped out that day.

Thank you to the Altar Guild Ministry Coordinator Raquel Hansen and Communion Preparation Lori Springer and to all the women who help serve on the Altar Guild and to the men who assist with this also. Our altar banners and candles always look great and add so much to our beautiful church!

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Jensen, Secretary

2021 WOW FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance as of January 1, 2021 **\$ 1,604.32**

Income

Greeting Cards	\$ 31.00
Coffee/Cookies	\$ 168.00
J. Thompson Funeral Donation	\$ 100.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$ 108.00
Charity Bazaar	<u>\$1,111.30</u>
Sub-total	\$ 1,518.30

Total Income \$ 1,518.30

Expenses

WOW Booklet	\$ 73.93
Kitchen Supplies	\$ 27.56
Samaritan's Purse Postage	<u>\$ 189.00</u>
Sub-total	\$ 290.49

Total Expenses \$ 290.49

Balance on hand December 31, 2021 **\$ 2,832.13**

Submitted by Chris Jensen

2021 SCRIP FUND

Checking Account Balance as of January 1, 2021 **\$ 4,441.08**

Income:

Scrip Sales	
Fleet Farm	\$ 2,775.00
Hy-Vee	\$ 5,825.00
Kwik Trip	\$ 14,775.00
Car Wash Card Sales	\$ 300.00
Additional Deposits from Kwik Trip	\$ 451.04

Total Income \$ 24,126.04

Expenses:

Scrip Card Purchases	\$ 20,948.50
Car Wash Card Purchases	\$ 160.00
Transfer to "General Account"	\$ 1,097.00

Total Expenses \$ 22,205.50

Checking Account Balance as of December 31, 2021 **\$ 6,361.62**

Scrip Card Balance on Hand as of December 31, 2021 **\$ 2,915.00**

Grand Total Balance (Checking + Scrip) as of December 31, 2021 **\$ 9,276.62**

Scrip Profit Summary for 2021

<u>Store</u>	<u>Sales</u>	<u>Profit</u>
Fleet Farm	\$ 2,775.00	\$ 116.50
Hy-Vee	\$ 5,825.00	\$ 132.14
Kwik Trip - Fuel	\$ 14,775.00	\$ 979.75
Kwik Trip - Car Wash	\$ 300.00	\$ 100.00
Kwik Trip Direct Deposit		\$ 451.04
Totals	\$ 23,675.00	\$ 1,779.43

Submitted by Dean Shankland

2021 BUILDING FUND

Balance on hand January 1, 2021			\$8,961.41
Income			
	Thrivent Choice	\$1,629.00	
	Owatonna Metal - cans	\$43.68	
			Total Donations
			\$1,672.68
Transfers Out			
	None	\$0.00	
			Total Transfers
			\$0.00
Balance on hand December 31, 2021			\$10,634.09

Submitted by Steve Miller

2021 MEMORIAL FUND

Balance on hand January 1, 2021			\$3,939.27
Income			
	In memory/honor of:		
	Mary Phillips	\$20.00	
	Norman Rieck	\$20.00	
	Donna Turnmire	\$20.00	
	Janet Thompson	\$50.00	
	Juniper Holle	\$30.00	
			Total Income
			\$140.00
Transfers Out			
	None		
			Total Transfers
			\$0.00
Balance on hand December 31, 2021			\$4,079.27

Submitted by Steve Miller

First Lutheran Church
2021 CATEGORIES OF GIVING

This chart includes giving to the General Fund from members and associate members only.

\$	5.00	to	\$	500.00	4
\$	501.00	to	\$	1,000.00	7
\$	1,001.00	to	\$	2,000.00	9
\$	2,001.00	to	\$	3,000.00	4
\$	3,001.00	to	\$	4,000.00	2
\$	4,001.00	to	\$	5,000.00	1
\$	5,001.00	to	\$	6,000.00	0
\$	6,001.00	to	\$	7,000.00	0
\$	7,001.00	to	\$	8,000.00	0
\$	8,001.00	to	\$	9,000.00	1
\$	9,001.00	to	\$	10,000.00	2
\$	10,000.00	to	\$	16,000.00	3
					33

First Lutheran Church
2021 EXPENSE STATEMENT

General Expenses:		\$ 103,044.07
Benevolence	\$ 11,445.00	
Building Maintenance	\$ 1,499.65	
Adult Education	\$ 373.89	
Pastors Education	\$ 1,088.53	
Youth Education	\$ 311.82	
Workman's Comp. Ins.	\$ 516.50	
Property Insurance	\$ 2,914.25	
LCMC Conference	\$ 1,309.52	
Office Expenses	\$ 2,144.96	
Outreach & Fellowship	\$ 334.37	
Youth Mission Trip	\$ -	
Adult Mission Trip	\$ -	
Laundry Love	\$ 2,154.50	
Mileage	\$ 246.40	
Pastor Call and Transition	\$ 122.98	
Ministry	\$ -	
Pastor Salary	\$ 66,500.04	
Organist Salary	\$ 4,575.00	
Custodian Salary	\$ 1,590.00	
Telephone/Internet	\$ 971.43	
Electrical	\$ 675.91	
Natural Gas	\$ 1,523.83	
Waste Disposal	\$ 182.52	
Well Rent	\$ 180.00	
Assessment	\$ 660.00	
Visiting Pastor	\$ 1,100.56	
Worship Expenses	\$ 622.41	

Other Expenses:		\$ 14,360.00
MN Teen Challenge	\$ 1,248.00	
Pastor Bob Mankaka and Paola	\$ 3,860.00	
TAT - Home of Hope	\$ 8,797.00	
Mission Mexico	\$ 255.00	
Local foodshelves	\$ 200.00	

**Does not include checks/cash directly made out to the organization*

Total Expenses **\$ 117,404.07**

Submitted by Raquel Hansen

First Lutheran Church
2021 INCOME STATEMENT

INCOME

General Offering:		\$116,104.23
Member Offerings:	\$105,822.00	
Non-Member Offerings:	\$7,793.23	
Cash Offerings:	\$2,489.00	
Other Income and Transfers:		\$821.00
	\$821.00	
Designated Giving:		\$14,665.00
MN Teen Challenge	\$1,248.00	
Pastor Bob Mankaka and Paola	\$3,860.00	
TAT - Home of Hope	\$8,797.00	
Mission Mexico	\$255.00	
Local Foodshelves	\$200.00	
Laundry Love	\$305.00	
<i>*Does not include checks/cash directly made out to the organization</i>		
TOTAL INCOME		\$131,590.23

Beginning Checkbook Balance January 1, 2021	\$48,149.83
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Total Income	\$131,590.23
Subtotal	\$179,740.06
Less Expenses	\$117,404.07
Ending General Fund Balance December 31, 2021	\$62,335.99

Designated Giving Kept in Checking		\$ 2,000.00
Laundry Love	\$ -	
Dedicated Offerings	\$ -	
Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 2,000.00	

Amount available less the Designated Giving	\$60,335.99
--	--------------------

Submitted by Raquel Hansen

First Lutheran Church
2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

	Approved 2021	Current 2021	Proposed 2022
Benevolence	\$ 10,300.00	\$ 11,445.00	\$ 10,900.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,499.70	\$ 1,750.00
<u>Education</u>			
Adult Education	\$ 700.00	\$ 373.89	\$ 700.00
Pastors Education	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,088.50	\$ 250.00
Youth Education	\$ 200.00	\$ 311.82	\$ 300.00
<u>Insurance</u>			
Workman's Comp. Ins.	\$ 600.00	\$ 516.50	\$ 600.00
Property Insurance	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 2,914.30	\$ 3,125.00
LCMC Conference	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,309.50	\$ 1,500.00
Office Expenses	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,145.00	\$ 2,500.00
<u>Outreach & Fellowship</u>			
Outreach & Fellowship	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 334.37	\$ 1,000.00
Youth Mission Trip		\$ -	\$ -
Adult Mission Trip		\$ -	\$ -
Laundry Love	\$ 850.00	\$ 2,154.50	\$ 1,500.00
<u>Pastor Expenses</u>			
Mileage	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 246.40	\$ 1,000.00
Pastor Call and Transition		\$ 122.98	\$ 2,000.00
Ministry	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00
<u>Salaries</u>			
Pastor Salary	\$ 66,500.00	\$ 66,500.04	\$ 67,000.00
Organist Salary	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,575.00	\$ 6,200.00
Custodian Salary	\$ 1,560.00	\$ 1,590.00	\$ 1,768.00
<u>Utilities</u>			
Telephone/Internet	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 971.43	\$ 1,000.00
Electrical	\$ 750.00	\$ 675.91	\$ 750.00
Natural Gas	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,523.80	\$ 1,900.00
Waste Disposal	\$ 200.00	\$ 182.52	\$ 210.00
Well Rent	\$ 180.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 180.00
Assessment	\$ 700.00	\$ 660.00	\$ 700.00
Visiting Pastor	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,100.60	\$ 1,300.00
Worship Expenses	\$ 500.00	\$ 622.41	\$ 600.00
TOTAL	\$ 102,940.00	\$ 103,044.17	\$ 109,133.00

Submitted by Raquel Hansen

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Term</u>
<u>Executive Council (3 year term)</u>			
President	Lisa Borchert	Lisa Borchert	2020-22
Vice President	Jim Springer	Jim Springer	2022-24
Secretary	Mary Arfmann	Mary Arfmann	2022-24
Treasurer	Raquel Hansen	Raquel Hansen	2020-22
<u>Board of Trustees</u>			
(3 year term)	*Dave Jensen	*Dave Jensen	2021-23
Elected by Congregation	Todd Hansen	Todd Hansen	2022-24
	Wendell Peterson	Wendell Peterson	2020-22
<u>Board of Deacons</u>			
(3 year term)	*Randy Borchert	*Randy Borchert	2020-22
Elected by Congregation	Steve Miller	Lori Springer	2022-24
	Kathy Streiff	Rhonda Nappin	2021-23
<u>Board of Education</u>			
(2 year term)	Lori Springer	John PirkI	2021-22
Elected by Congregation	Kim PirkI	Amanda Betters	2022-23
<u>Nominating Committee</u>			
(1 year term)	Mary Arfmann	Council Member	2022
Elected by Congregation	Dave Jensen	Council Member	2022
by nomination at Annual Mtg.	Warren Suchanek	Open	2022
	Amanda Buzzard	Open	2022
	Joey PirkI	Open	2022
<u>Auditors</u>			
(3 year term)	Warren Suchanek	Randy Borchert	2022-24
Appointed by Council	Kathy Peterson	Kathy Peterson	2020-22
	Darla Skalicky	Darla Skalicky	2020-22
<u>Benevolence Committee</u>			
(2 year term)	Open	Randy Borchert	2022-23
Appointed by Council	Raquel Hansen	Open	2022-23
<u>Finance Committee</u>			
(3 year term)	*Randy Borchert	*Jim Springer	2020-22
Appointed by Council	Jim Springer	Warren Suchanek	2022-24
	Raquel Hansen (Treasurer)	Raquel Hansen (Treasurer)	2020-22
	Open	Open	
<u>Head Ushers</u>			
	Jim Springer	Jim Springer	
	Warren Suchanek	Warren Suchanek	

* Designated Chairperson

* Names in bold are upon Congregational vote

First Lutheran Church

Hope, MN

2021 Annual Report



GROWING IN CHRIST.

SHARING HIS LOVE.

REACHING THE WORLD.



Member Congregation

**First Lutheran Church
Hope, Minnesota
2021 Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 23, 2022**

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AGENDA

1. Call to Order *Lisa Borchert*
2. Opening Worship *Sandy Brooks*
3. Opening Devotion *Pastor Sandy*
4. Approve Minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting *Lisa Borchert*
5. Pastor's Report *Pastor Sandy*
6. Council & Committee Reports - Questions & Comments *Lisa Borchert*
 - a. President's Report - *Lisa Borchert*
 - b. Board of Deacons Report - *Randy Borchert*
 - c. Board of Trustees Report - *Dave Jensen*
 - d. Finance Committee - *Raquel Hansen*
 - e. Audit Committee - *Kathy Peterson*
 - f. Benevolence Committee - *Raquel Hansen*
 - g. Board of Education - *Pastor Sandy*
 - h. Women of the Word - *Chris Jensen*
7. Pastor Transition and Call Process *Lisa Borchert*
8. Treasurer's Report - Income & Expense *Raquel Hansen*
 - a. 2021 Financial Review *Raquel Hansen*
 - 1) All Accounts - Questions & Comments
 - b. 2022 Budget Presentation & Approval *Raquel Hansen*
9. Nominations and Elections *Lisa Borchert*
 - a. Recognition and Appreciation of Service
 - b. Introduction of Candidates
 - c. Introduction of Council Members
 - d. Appoint 2022 Nominating Committee

**The President of the Congregation shall preside over the meeting.
We shall follow Robert's Rules of order for any procedural questions.**

2020 First Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2021

Call to order: Lisa Borchert, 26 in attendance

Opening Worship: Led by Sandy Brooks "We are the Church".

Devotions: Pastor Sandy Miller Hebrews 10: 19-25, 31-39. The full assurance of faith.

2019 Meeting Minutes Approval: Lisa Borchert

- Wendell Peterson made a motion to approve, AJ Pirkl seconded; motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Sandy Miller

- Referred to pages 8 & 9 in Annual Report.
- 2020 a year to remember.
 - Leaders came forward to help during COVID-19.
 - Recording of the online message has been reaching as many people as in person worship.
 - We all grew in faith; Pastor, leadership, and congregation, we need not fear hardships.
 - Global Ministry Partners: miracles are happening in the Congo; Home of Hope in Estonia is open with daily ministry.
 - Sandy thanked the leadership at First, Steve for his help, and for the privilege of serving First Lutheran. We are committed to provide worship on a weekly basis together in the future.
 - Sandy expressed thankfulness for the privilege of serving as pastor.

Council and Committee reports: Lisa Borchert

- Lisa pointed out pages 11-21 in the Annual Report and inquired if there were any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments.

Old Business

2020 Financial Review: Raquel Hansen

- Raquel referred the congregation to pages 23-25 in the Annual Report.
- Raquel thanked Steve Weigt for the smooth and solid transition into the position of treasure.
- Raquel thanked First Lutheran members for the generous Tithes and Offerings of \$117,000 through general and designated giving.
- 80% of households contributed. 19 of the 34 giving households increased their giving in 2020.
- Raquel reviewed the five accounts separate from the general account totaling \$20,850. The five accounts are Scrip Fund, Building Fund, Memorial Fund, WOW account and Y-HM.
- There were no questions or comments.

Constitutional Ratification: Lisa Borchert

- Lisa referred to page 22 in the Annual Report.
- Lisa pointed out that this was a formality of ratifying the constitutional changes as outlined on pages 4&5. These changes were voted on and approved at the 2019 Annual Meeting. The changes have been operating for the past 2 years with no problems.
- Randy Borchert made a motion to ratify the constitutional changes as presented. Richard Hansen seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Raquel Hansen

Income and Expenses

- Referred to pages 26 and 27 in the Annual Report.
- Total general offering was \$106,408 which was within \$4.00 of offering compared to last year.
- Additional designated giving amounted to \$10,615.
- We did not spend as much as we expected and spending was down by \$10,000 in the original projection.

- Reasons for the positive variance is due to cancelled mission trips, limited outreach, and fellowship because of COVID, changes in LCMC Conference and changes in our insurance plan.
- Benevolence increased by \$2000.00 because of a decrease in expenses.
- PPP Loan of \$12,917 was received in April. We applied for forgiveness and the loan transitioned into a grant.
- Raquel asked for questions and comments. No questions or comments.

Pastoral Compensation Goals: Lisa Borchert

- Jim Springer, Raquel Hansen, and Lisa Borchert met to research and make recommendations for Pastoral compensation. The committee recommended and offered a 2.3% increase in Pastoral salary.
- The council discussed and unanimously approved a 2.3% increase.
- Lisa asked for questions and comments. No comments or questions.
- Wendell Peterson made a motion to accept the recommendation of the council for a 2.3% salary increase. Dave Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

2021 Budget Presentation and Approval: Raquel Hansen

- A budget of \$102,940 was presented.
- This is lower than actual offerings but higher than actual expenses by \$600.00.
- Key changes
 - Due to uncertainty as to when we can extend outreach and fellowship, additional funds were added in comparison to actual spending.
 - There is no allocation for youth or adult mission trips due to COVID-19.
 - LCMC funds for annual meeting was added.
 - Changes in insurance plan was an \$800.00 yearly savings.
- AJ Pirkl made a motion to accept the 2021 budget. Amanda Buzzard seconded. Motion carried.

Nominations and Elections: Lisa Borchert

- Lisa gave recognition and appreciation of service to Kim Pirkl, Board of Education, Kathy Streif, Deacon
- Introduction of Candidates
 - Dave Jensen, Trustee; Rhonda Nappin, Deacon; John Pirkl, Board of Education
- Todd Hansen made a motion to accept the slate of candidates. Warren Suchanek seconded. Motion carried.

Introduction of Council members

Lisa Borchert-President	Jim Springer-Vice President
Raquel Hansen-Treasurer	Mary Arfmann-Secretary
Randy Borchert-Deacon	Dave Jensen-Trustee
Rhonda Nappin- Deacon	Wendell Peterson-Trustee
Steve Miller-Deacon	Todd Hansen-Trustee

Nominations and Election of 2021 Nominating Committee

- Nomination for the committee include Amanda Buzzard, Joey Pirkl, Warren Suchanek
 - Raquel Hansen made a motion to accept the slate of candidates for the nominating committee for 2021. AJ Pirkl seconded. Motion carried.

Close of Meeting

- Dave Jensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Karlene Hansen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Closed in Prayer by Pastor Sandy

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Arfmann, Secretary

2022 Calendar

January 4-6			LCMC Three Days of Prayer
January 23	Sunday	10:30 am	Annual Meeting, Potluck Pastor Sandy's Retirement
March 2	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
March 9	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
March 16	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
March 23	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
March 30	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
April 6	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
April 10	Sunday	9:00 am	Palm Sunday
April 14	Thursday	6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
April 15	Friday	6:30 pm	Good Friday Service
April 17	Sunday	9:00 am	Easter Service w/Communion
Oct. 2-5	Sun-Wed		LCMC Annual Gathering Lakeville, MN
Oct 16	Sunday	3:00 pm	Meatball Supper
Nov 23	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service
Nov 25	Friday	8:30 am	Decorate for Advent
Nov 27	Sunday	9:00 am	First Sunday of Advent
Dec 24	Saturday	4:30 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

2022 CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Confirmed	Baptized	Last Name	First Name
2	2	*Anderson	Charlie & Carol
1	1	Arfmann	Mary
2	2	Armstrong	Dennis & Dawn
1	3	Arnett	Alyssa (Aspen, Aiden)
1	2	Bettters	Amanda (Jerod Battey)
2	2	Borchert	Randy & Lisa
1	1	Brekke	Nancy
1	2	Buzzard	Amanda (Alayna DuShane)
1	1	Clementson	Jan
2	2	Hansen	Richard & Karlene
2	2	Hansen	Todd & Raquel
1	1	Harlicker	Cheryl
1	1	Harty	Kathy
1	1	Hoelz	Mary
1	1	Hrdlicka	Barbara
2	2	*Ingvaldson	Jon & Michelle
1	1	Jensen	Steve
2	2	Jensen	David & Chris
1	1	Krause	Jim
1	1	Kuckenbecker	David
2	2	Larson	Gene & Audrey
2	2	Luedtke	David & Pam Bartz
2	4	Malepsy	Anthony & Jennifer (Coen & Rhett)
2	2	Matthees	Doug & Carole
2	2	Meixner	Marvin & Beverly
2	2	Miller	Pastor Sandy & Steve
3	3	Nappin	Rhonda (Dakota, Danielle)
2	2	Nelson	Harvey & Anna
1	2	Olson	Angela (Jadan Young)
2	2	Peterson	Wendell & Kathy
4	4	Pirkl	John & Kim (Andrew & Joseph)
1	2	Pool	Buzz (Maryn)
2	2	Prokopec	Richard & Diane Schmidtke
1	2	Ramsey	Carissa (Caspian)
2	2	Schwartz	Gary & Dawn
2	2	Shankland	Dean & JoAnn
2	3	Skalicky	Jarrold & Jacquelyn (Jerome)
2	2	Skalicky	Steve & Darla
1	1	Skalicky	Jack
1	1	Smuland	Sylvia
2	2	Springer	Jim & Lori
1	1	Streiff	Kathy
1	1	Suchanek	Velma
1	1	Suchanek	Warren
1	1	Thompson	Jim
1	3	Thompson	Ron (Andrea & Bobby)
2	2	Weigt	Steven & Ruth
1	1	*Wilker	Carol
75	87		

PASTOR'S REPORT

GROWING IN CHRIST. SHARING HIS LOVE. REACHING THE WORLD.

To the saints of **First Lutheran Church in Hope**, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, (Eph 1:1-2) (*emphasis mine*)

It seems like we say it every year, but what a year it's been! At the beginning of 2021, we felt God leading us into a year of 'reinstating'. That was the word we heard. Reinstatement. And reinstatement we did! We reinstated all of the following ministries: Prayer Ministry on Sunday morning; Bible Studies; Childcare Ministry; numerous Fellowship and Outreach opportunities; and while it wasn't on our radar at the time, we were so blessed to reinstate Sunday School in the fall. In many ways, we are back to life and ministry as normal and for that, I am grateful.

At the same time, things are not back to normal. There are still people who have not come back to worship. We've also experienced how the pandemic has affected the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of many we love and care about, particularly the elderly and those with risk factors. For this, I am sad as I realize how our culture and world events really *can* affect the state of our physical, emotional, and spiritual health, as well as our ability, and even desire, to gather. So while some things feel 'back to normal', other things are definitely *not* normal (even though I try to deny or fight that tooth and nail!).

And so we adjust. We lean into God and ask hard questions. And we determine as the apostle Paul did to "*forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead, pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*" Friends, this is something we cannot give up on. We simply *must* press on, fighting for our faith and determining to preach and proclaim the Gospel to the best of our ability wherever we can and for as long as we are given grace to do so.

In saying that, I am so blessed to serve a congregation who supports that vision – one who is actively **Growing in Christ. Sharing His Love. And Reaching the World.** The people of First Lutheran are committed to making Sunday mornings worshipful, Spirit-filled, and Christ-focused. You seemingly will not settle for anything contrary to the Word of God, and for that, I am grateful! *Never* settle for anything less!! You are willing to serve where and when needed, and delight in connecting with and reaching out to both old and new friends. You are generous in your giving, supporting the ministry of First Lutheran and beyond. Together, we are the body of Christ and making a positive impact in the Kingdom of God!

So maybe you're asking yourself, 'is she going to address the elephant in the room'? Well, here it goes. On September 5, 2021 I announced my retirement from serving as your pastor to be effective Sunday, January 23, 2022. As you can imagine, this was not an easy decision, but one that came with much prayer and wrestling. I love all of you so much! I love worshiping with you, studying God's Word with you, fellowshiping with you, and serving with you. There's not a one of you that I don't look forward to seeing and connecting with on a regular basis. And yet, there is a season for everything.

I've had the wonderful privilege of serving the congregation of First Lutheran for 10-1/2 years. The LORD has done *a lot* in that time!! And so not only am I at 'retirement age', I feel as though I've done what God has called me to do. It's now time to pass the baton to the next pastor of First Lutheran who will have new energy and a fresh vision for ministry. My hope and prayer for all of you is that you will stay faithful and prayerful during this transition, trusting that the LORD has something great in store for you! I fully believe that He does!

While my retirement was difficult news to receive at first, the Holy Spirit started doing the work that only He can do, empowering our Council leaders/Transition team for the work that needed to be done. He instilled in them an appreciation for the past, along with a deep and abiding hope and even excitement for the future. In addition, He has bound them together in a well-working machine, each one bringing something to this process with the gifts God has given them. Their commitment to God, to each other, and to the congregation of First Lutheran is both humbling and admirable. All of this gives me a great sense of peace that I heard God rightly, and that you are all in good hands, both from above and in your leadership team.

By the time you read this letter, my time at First Lutheran will be very short or possibly even complete. Know that I will go through a time of grief, and you may as well. Both Steve and I will miss the relationships that we have with all of you as you truly are our relational network. We will forever remember the wonderful times we had together and how the LORD worked in and through all of us together. I know you've probably heard the story of when I answered the call to serve God, I said 'yes, LORD! I'll do anything but be a pastor'. Well, now I can't imagine *anything but* being a pastor. It's been one of greatest challenges of my life, but it's also been an experience that has brought spiritual growth and inexpressable joy!

So, thank you. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the love, encouragement, and support that you've shown me through the years. Thank you for blessing me with your testimonies of how God has been working in your life. Thank your for trusting me to be a part of your most holy and sacred moments – births, baptisms, death, loss, as well as the joys and sorrows of daily life. Thank you for the privilege of praying for you and with you. Thank you for your grace, your patience, and your kindness. It's made an irremovable impression on my life.

As I leave, I'd like to suggest that we not say 'good-bye', but rather 'see you around' as we're not going far. We'll still see each other around here and there. At the same time, it's important that we give the Interim Team and the new pastor the opportunity they deserve to connect with you and experience all of the wonderful blessings that Steve and I did in serving you.

I leave you with the words of the apostle Paul. *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you."* Philippians 4:4-9

In His JOY ~

Pastor Sandy

2021 OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptisms (4)

Aiden Allen Arnett	1/10/2021
Taitym Stephanie Haworth	11/14/2021
Zoey Karlene Hansen	11/14/2021
Caspian Phillip Ramsey	12/26/2021

Confirmed (0)

Memorial Service (1)

Janet Thompson	7/28/2021
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Wedding (0)

Membership Statistics as of Dec. 31, 2021

Total Members	82
Total Associate Members	5
Total Households (Members & Associates)	48
Total Giving Households (Members & Associates)	33
Average Worship Attendance	39

New Members Received (0)

Members No Longer Active (0)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you His peace at all times and in every situation.

The Lord be with you all. 2 Thessalonians 3:16 (NLT)

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace be with you all! Did you know that peace is mentioned in the bible over 300 times depending on which version you are reading? Why is that? It's because God wants it to be clear to us that when we walk with Him daily, He will pour out His peace on us! It's something I have been thinking about a lot this past year as I strive to cast my cares and worries onto our Lord, letting Him lead me daily where He needs me. Pastor Sandy recently shared a message on peace. She told us that peace isn't the absence of conflict, instead peace is having complete faith in God in the middle of conflict and recognizing that He is there for us offering His love and guidance to get us through each day. As I look back over 2021, and all the angst in our society, I feel that now more than ever we all need to be searching for God's peace in our daily walk. And I feel we have been blessed with exactly that! Throughout 2021 I have seen a continual outpouring of our congregation working and serving together to bring glory to God.

This year God re-instated some pockets of normalcy! We started to gather again for events! Wasn't it great to be in community again? Yes, it was!! We gathered in the church basement, in the sanctuary, in people's homes, and even in a barn to celebrate special events and enjoy meals together. In June God brought us the opportunity to host a celebration for Pastor Bob Mankaka to celebrate the completion of his Master's of Divinity degree, it was a truly blessed day! In July we gathered at the Borchert farm for our annual church picnic with great food, games, and fellowship. In August we tapped our toes and clapped our hands to the awesome music of Cabin Fever. In September we hosted the MN Adult and Teen challenge and blessed them with a delicious breakfast, but as always it feels like they blessed us WAY more than we blessed them! And in December we caroled, bringing some Christmas cheer to those who are not able to easily get out and about. It has felt so good to be back in full fellowship with all of you again!!

2021 also brought the announcement of Pastor Sandy's retirement. I know this has been weighing heavy on many of our hearts ever since we heard the news. It has been eye opening for me to be a part of the call process. Watching God at work through our council members, through those He has called to be on our Call Committee, and through our congregation. He is accomplishing His work through our diligence to stay connected to Him through the prayers that are being sent up by all of us during this season of transition and change. He is definitely hearing our prayers and blessing us with His guidance. An interesting fact that I learned about transitions and seasons of change, is that they start with an ending and end with a beginning. I had never thought of that before, but it makes sense. As God closes our chapter with Pastor Sandy, He will guide and lead us through the next season with our Interim Pastor. And finally, He will bring us to our next chapter with the new Pastor that He has called forth to lead us here at First Lutheran Church in Hope.

I can't help but thank God for all of you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing! And I pray that as we enter into 2022 that our theme verse, ***Romans 15:13; May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope***, will resonate an even deeper peace for you in your walk with our Lord.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Borchert, Council President

BOARD OF DEACONS REPORT

Greetings fellow children of God. How blessed are we to call God our Father?

In 2021 we were blessed with Rhonda Nappin joining the Board of Deacons working alongside of Randy Borchert and Steve Miller.

We met quarterly to discuss our spiritual growth as a church, along with our bible studies, prayer ministries, child care, Sunday School and outreach to our congregation and to our global missions.

We worked with the Men's Bible study putting together the LCMC Three Days of Prayer, offering an evening Prayer Service on January 7th where we gathered to be in community prayer.

We continue to offer Prayer Ministry on the first and third Sundays of each month during communion and after service, which has been well received by those in need of prayer. 2021 allowed us to keep the doors of the church open through Covid-19 and all its variants. This fall God blessed us with reinstating our Sunday School Program. It is being run by Rhonda Nappin and her two daughters, Alyssa Arnett and Carissa Ramsey. We have seven children learning about God and His messages in the bible—if you are here when they are gathering in the basement you've seen and heard the excitement of their learning!

On October 3-6, Pastor Sandy and Mary Arfmann attended the annual LCMC gathering held in Columbus, Ohio. This year's theme was *Speak it, Live it, Share it*. It was a spiritually rewarding experience for both of them!

We were blessed this year in our Pulpit supply with messages given by Pastor Patty Sigford, Pastor Deborah Lunde, and council member Jim Springer during Pastor Sandy's vacations, giving us the opportunity to work alongside all of them in preparing and putting together that week's service.

With Pastor Sandy's retirement she has come alongside of us to better prepare us to provide a continuation of services for our congregation's spiritual needs during this time of transition and change.

It is our hope and prayer we, Deacons, continue growing in our own relationship with Christ, better preparing us for our role as your Deacons, prayerfully seeking God's guidance in leading our congregation to be one that is growing in spiritual maturity.

Respectfully Submitted by

Randy Borchert, Lead Deacon

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Church is so blessed! Once again God provided us with everything that we needed.

New dampeners were installed in the duct work by Dave Lax of Central Heating and AC. He donated his labor. Thank you Dave.

The southwest corner of the kitchen was rearranged, painted and a new light was installed. It looks much better now. Thanks to Wendell and Todd for painting the walls.

Thanks to Todd, Jim, Charlie, Jack, Cheryl and Dave for mowing our lawn this past year.

To all of you who showed up on our annual clean up day: Thank you. Also thank you to Raquel and Todd for providing the food.

We added mulch to the south and west side of the church. Thank you Todd for delivering the mulch.

Thank you to Wendell for painting the trim around the windows on the south side of the church.

New storm windows were installed on the North side of the church. Thanks to Todd for the use of your tractor and bucket. Thanks to Randy for getting the glass for the windows.

Thank you also to Steve Weigt for rebuilding and installing the northeast window.

Thank you to Chuck Schuler for plowing our parking lot.

Thank you to Carol Wilker for taking care of the flowers and shrubs.

Thank you, Jim Springer, for taking care of our sidewalks by making sure they are clear of snow and ice. Thanks also Jim for helping the Board of Trustees whenever we need an extra hand.

Also to anyone who helped in any way through out the year: thank you for your time and efforts.

Thank you to Pastor Sandy for taking the minutes at all of the Board of Trustee meetings all of these years.

Thank you to Todd and Wendell for always being willing to help with what ever needs to be done.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Jensen

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We are blessed! Every month during the past year the Finance Committee continues to thank the Lord for the offerings of the congregation, especially as we hear the challenges and struggles other churches have had since the pandemic.

We far exceeded our tithes and offerings in comparison to the prior two years, thankful for 20 households providing increased giving from 2020 to 2021 and blessed by a few large offerings from members who invested in God by giving through their hearts. We far exceeded the expectations set out a year ago, with overall annual tithes and offerings at \$116,104. This is almost \$10,000 above the 2020 year! **Thank you** to everyone for your continued giving and your prayers.

Expenses were comparable to projection—with the help of the Scrip account profits on the window restoration project, we came within approximately \$100 of projected expenses. Total expenses out of the General Fund were \$103,044.

During the year, we have various opportunities for additional offerings including \$8,797 contributed to Tartu: Home of Hope; Pastor Bob Mankaka and his wife Paola supporting their vision of a women's shelter in Congo of \$3,860; and \$1,923 contributed to Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge. First Lutheran Church also received free will offerings for various ministries such as Area Food Shelves and Mission Mexico. It is humbling how generously our congregation gives in addition to church offerings.

The Finance Committee consists of Randy Borchert, Jim Springer, and Raquel Hansen, with support at meetings from Pastor Sandy and Council President Lisa Borchert. The committee continues to monitor the finances to stay on budget and be good stewards of our finances. We anticipate many challenges will continue to face the congregation during this next year as we make a pastoral transition. We trust God will provide for all we need and continue to bless us. Thank you to all families who continue to step out in faith to give generously to fulfill God's purpose.

Respectfully Submitted,

Raquel Hansen, Treasurer

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.” Malachi 3:10

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Warren Suchanek, Darla Skalicky, Kathy Peterson

PURPOSE: To audit the checking accounts of First Lutheran

DATE COMPLETED: December 13, 2021

FINDINGS:

- The committee reviewed several deposits and matched the Sunday offering accordingly. Each offering we reviewed was accounted for and recorded appropriately on the tally sheet and the checking account.
- A review of several distributions from the General Account matched the invoices that were provided.
- All reconciliation reports were done in a timely fashion and accounted for in the General Account.
- Timeliness of deposits was noted as monies are deposited same day.
- Raquel has access to all accounts online and also saves a copy of the electronic bank statements.
- Raquel made some changes to her process and has now eliminated the need to double entry everything. Six QuickBook reports are exported into Excel to create the six reports that are reviewed on a monthly basis by the Finance Committee and Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

- Raquel will now be ordering all church supplies with Sandy's retirement. She will issue an expense request and asked for our recommendation since she is also writing the check for all reimbursements. It was recommended that one of the Council approve her expense reimbursement request.

SUBMITTED BY: Warren Suchanek, Darla Skalicky, Kathy Peterson

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

First Lutheran is committed to giving a minimum of 10% of our general offerings in Benevolence each year. What is 'benevolence'? It's giving to organizations and ministries that help fulfill the purposes of God and advance His Kingdom. This includes a variety of things from area food shelves, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, Christian radio, and global outreach just to name a few.

The Benevolence Committee consisted of Raquel Hansen and Pastor Sandy, with both of their terms dissolving at the end of the year. Randy Borchert has been appointed by the council to lead this committee during the next year. This is a very rewarding and purposeful committee that ideally would have additional member(s) willing to serve for 3-year terms. We meet on a quarterly basis where we, first of all, give thanks to God for His many blessings, and then we pray about how the monies should be directed. We then make a recommendation to Council who approves the final distribution.

Following is a summary of our 2021 Benevolence giving followed by a detailed report on the next page.

Local Ministries	\$4,300	38%
Regional Ministries	\$1,555	14%
Global Ministries	\$3,600	32%
LCMC Association	\$1,190	10%
Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 800	6%
TOTAL	\$11,445	

We look forward to another year of generous and sacrificial giving on the part of our congregation which will in turn allow us to continue sowing generously into the Kingdom of God. We may be small, but we are mighty in Christ!

Respectfully Submitted,

Raquel Hansen

2021 BENEVOLENCE SUMMARY

	1st Qtr Giving (4th Qtr Offering)	2nd Qtr Giving (1st Qtr Offering)	3rd Qtr Giving (2nd Qtr Offering)	4th Qtr Giving (3rd Qtr Offering)	YTD
	\$27,067	\$26,715	\$27,566	\$34,217	\$115,565
	\$2,707	\$2,672	\$2,757	\$3,422	\$11,557
<u>Local - (approx. 50%)</u>					
Koda Living Community Foundation	\$150			\$225	
Hospitality House		\$200			
Rachel's Light		\$200			
Salvation Army	\$200			\$225	
KJLY - Owatonna	\$200			\$225	
Beds for Kids	\$200			\$225	
Crisis Resource Center			\$200		
Transitional Housing			\$200		
Pregnancy Options		\$150			
Ellendale Food Shelf		\$200		\$250	
Steele County Food Shelf		\$200		\$250	
Ministerial Emergency Fund	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
TOTAL	\$950	\$1,150	\$600	\$1,600	
LOCAL YTD TOTAL					\$4,300
<u>Regional - (approx. 20%)</u>					
Marie Sandvik Center	\$200			\$250	
KJLY			\$100		
Master's Institute			\$250		
Source Ministries	\$200			\$125	
Minnesota Teen Challenge		\$180	\$250		
TOTAL	\$400	\$180	\$600	\$375	
REGIONAL YTD TOTAL					\$1,555
<u>Global - (approx. 20%)</u>					
Pastor Peter Sewakiryanga					
Pastor Bob Mankaka	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	
TAT: Home of Hope	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	
Mission Mexico International	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	
TOTAL	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	
GLOBAL YTD TOTAL					\$3,600
<u>Denomination - 10%</u>					
LCMC	\$270	\$270	\$300	\$350	
TOTAL	\$270	\$270	\$300	\$350	
DENOMINATION YTD TOTAL					\$1,190
Good Samaritan Fund	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE/QUARTER	\$2,720	\$2,700	\$2,600	\$3,425	
YTD TOTAL BENEVOLENCE					\$11,445

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

The goal of the Board of Education is to provide opportunities for our congregation to grow in their faith through the study of God's Word. This includes study of all ages from school age to adult. Thank you to Lori Springer and John Pirkl who have faithfully served this past year.

Let's start with the best highlight of our year when it comes to education. **Sunday School** was reinstated in September of this year!!! Praise God!!! Thanks to Rhonda Nappin who saw a need, and then offered her time and talent to meet that need, we have a full blown Sunday School program that is in full swing! Granted, it's a small group, but nonetheless, we have teachers and children and parents who are eager to support this important aspect of faith education for our children. A huge thank you to our teachers, Rhonda Nappin, Alyssa Arnett, and Carissa Nappin. They are proving to be faithful, creative, and enthusiastic in their lesson preparation and presentation. After reviewing a couple of different curriculums, we landed on the **Spark All Kids** curriculum by Sparkhouse that's appropriate for the number and ages of the children we have. So far, all is going well! Again, we are so grateful for the children, the teachers, and the parents who all had a part in launching a successful Sunday School program this past fall.

Our adult education opportunities continued strong throughout the year. We continued on in our **"Gospel Project"** series on Sunday morning, completing it in December. **Men's Bible study** also continues on Saturday morning with a faithful group of men, but always open to others who would like to join them!

Our weekday adult studies this year included a winter study called **"Trustworthy"** by Lisa TerKuerst and led by Lisa Borchert. This 7-week study focused on trusting God in difficult times using 1 & 2 Kings as our text. Our 9-week summer study **"Finding God Faithful"** by Kelly Minter and also led by Lisa, followed the life of Joseph which gave us even more perspective on how to trust God and remain faithful in difficult times. Finally, we brought back Henry Blackaby's study **"Experiencing God"**, a very practical study that focuses on experiencing God to the fullest through an intimate, personal love relationship with Him through Jesus Christ, and then learning to see where God is at work, and then *joining* Him in the work He is calling us to.

We're happy to say that Randy Borchert and Mary Arfmann completed the **"Discipleship Essentials"** disciple-making course with Jim Springer & Pastor Sandy. We commend them on this one year commitment to study and grow in their desire and commitment to learn more fully what it means to live as a disciple of Christ.

While we are extremely grateful for the people who love God's Word and faithfully gather to study, it's our continuous prayer that others would also join in and discover the joy and excitement of learning and growing in our faith as God's Word literally comes to life and transforms our lives.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Sandy

2021 Y-HM FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance as of January 1, 2021		\$1,906.25
Income		
Jams/Jellies	\$224.55	
	Total Income	\$224.55
Expenses		
None		
	Total Expenses	\$ -
Balance as of December 31, 2021		\$2,130.80

Submitted by Pastor Sandy Miller

WOMEN OF THE WORD REPORT

As COVID has lingered on, Women of the Word or WOW did not meet quarterly.

Lenten suppers were again canceled this year. Sunday morning fellowship following church service resumed in June with the service groups bringing treats. Thank you to all the service group leaders and groups for providing treats following church service and for special events throughout the year.

The women from MN Adult and Teen Challenge were here in September with a brunch following the worship service. Thank you Kathy Peterson WOW President and group leader, the Faith group and all who helped with the brunch.

The Meatball Supper that is usually held in October was canceled.

On November 6th the Charity Bazaar was held. Some area churches chose not to attend. Thanks to Lori Springer for again coordinating this event. We were able to raise \$1,111.30 which included sales and donations. Proceeds to go to Afghanistan Crisis Children's Relief.

November was a busy month with First Lutheran praying for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes on the 18th. WOW once again covered some of the postage/fees to send the boxes with the congregation donating items and postage for the boxes as well.

November 21st was our Thank Offering with Vickie Skala from Community Pathways speaking to our church. The congregation as always supported this event well with \$805 going to Community Pathways.

November 24th the Love group (Amanda Betters group co-leader) provided pie and coffee following the Thanksgiving Eve service.

On November 26th we decorated the church for Christmas. Thank you to Ministry Coordinators Lori Springer and Raquel Hansen and all who helped out that day.

Thank you to the Altar Guild Ministry Coordinator Raquel Hansen and Communion Preparation Lori Springer and to all the women who help serve on the Altar Guild and to the men who assist with this also. Our altar banners and candles always look great and add so much to our beautiful church!

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Jensen, Secretary

2021 WOW FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance as of January 1, 2021 **\$ 1,604.32**

Income

Greeting Cards	\$ 31.00
Coffee/Cookies	\$ 168.00
J. Thompson Funeral Donation	\$ 100.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$ 108.00
Charity Bazaar	<u>\$1,111.30</u>
Sub-total	\$1,518.30

Total Income \$ 1,518.30

Expenses

WOW Booklet	\$ 73.93
Kitchen Supplies	\$ 27.56
Samaritan's Purse Postage	<u>\$ 189.00</u>
Sub-total	\$ 290.49

Total Expenses \$ 290.49

Balance on hand December 31, 2021 **\$ 2,832.13**

Submitted by Chris Jensen

2021 SCRIP FUND

Checking Account Balance as of January 1, 2021 **\$ 4,441.08**

Income:

Scrip Sales		
Fleet Farm	\$	2,775.00
Hy-Vee	\$	5,825.00
Kwik Trip	\$	14,775.00
Car Wash Card Sales	\$	300.00
Additional Deposits from Kwik Trip	\$	<u>451.04</u>

Total Income \$ 24,126.04

Expenses:

Scrip Card Purchases	\$	20,948.50
Car Wash Card Purchases	\$	160.00
Transfer to "General Account"	\$	<u>1,097.00</u>

Total Expenses \$ 22,205.50

Checking Account Balance as of December 31, 2021 **\$ 6,361.62**

Scrip Card Balance on Hand as of December 31, 2021 **\$ 2,915.00**

Grand Total Balance (Checking + Scrip) as of December 31, 2021 **\$ 9,276.62**

Scrip Profit Summary for 2021

<u>Store</u>	<u>Sales</u>	<u>Profit</u>
Fleet Farm	\$ 2,775.00	\$ 116.50
Hy-Vee	\$ 5,825.00	\$ 132.14
Kwik Trip - Fuel	\$ 14,775.00	\$ 979.75
Kwik Trip - Car Wash	\$ 300.00	\$ 100.00
Kwik Trip Direct Deposit		\$ 451.04
Totals	\$ 23,675.00	\$ 1,779.43

Submitted by Dean Shankland

2021 BUILDING FUND

Balance on hand January 1, 2021			\$8,961.41
Income			
	Thrivent Choice	\$1,629.00	
	Owatonna Metal - cans	\$43.68	
			Total Donations
			\$1,672.68
Transfers Out			
	None	\$0.00	
			Total Transfers
			\$0.00
Balance on hand December 31, 2021			\$10,634.09

Submitted by Steve Miller

2021 MEMORIAL FUND

Balance on hand January 1, 2021			\$3,939.27
Income			
	In memory/honor of:		
	Mary Phillips	\$20.00	
	Norman Rieck	\$20.00	
	Donna Turnmire	\$20.00	
	Janet Thompson	\$50.00	
	Juniper Holle	\$30.00	
			Total Income
			\$140.00
Transfers Out			
	None		
			Total Transfers
			\$0.00
Balance on hand December 31, 2021			\$4,079.27

Submitted by Steve Miller

First Lutheran Church
2021 CATEGORIES OF GIVING

This chart includes giving to the General Fund from members and associate members only.

\$	5.00	to	\$	500.00	4
\$	501.00	to	\$	1,000.00	7
\$	1,001.00	to	\$	2,000.00	9
\$	2,001.00	to	\$	3,000.00	4
\$	3,001.00	to	\$	4,000.00	2
\$	4,001.00	to	\$	5,000.00	1
\$	5,001.00	to	\$	6,000.00	0
\$	6,001.00	to	\$	7,000.00	0
\$	7,001.00	to	\$	8,000.00	0
\$	8,001.00	to	\$	9,000.00	1
\$	9,001.00	to	\$	10,000.00	2
\$	10,000.00	to	\$	16,000.00	3
					33

First Lutheran Church
2021 EXPENSE STATEMENT

General Expenses:		\$ 103,044.07
Benevolence	\$ 11,445.00	
Building Maintenance	\$ 1,499.65	
Adult Education	\$ 373.89	
Pastors Education	\$ 1,088.53	
Youth Education	\$ 311.82	
Workman's Comp. Ins.	\$ 516.50	
Property Insurance	\$ 2,914.25	
LCMC Conference	\$ 1,309.52	
Office Expenses	\$ 2,144.96	
Outreach & Fellowship	\$ 334.37	
Youth Mission Trip	\$ -	
Adult Mission Trip	\$ -	
Laundry Love	\$ 2,154.50	
Mileage	\$ 246.40	
Pastor Call and Transition	\$ 122.98	
Ministry	\$ -	
Pastor Salary	\$ 66,500.04	
Organist Salary	\$ 4,575.00	
Custodian Salary	\$ 1,590.00	
Telephone/Internet	\$ 971.43	
Electrical	\$ 675.91	
Natural Gas	\$ 1,523.83	
Waste Disposal	\$ 182.52	
Well Rent	\$ 180.00	
Assessment	\$ 660.00	
Visiting Pastor	\$ 1,100.56	
Worship Expenses	\$ 622.41	

Other Expenses:		\$ 14,360.00
MN Teen Challenge	\$ 1,248.00	
Pastor Bob Mankaka and Paola	\$ 3,860.00	
TAT - Home of Hope	\$ 8,797.00	
Mission Mexico	\$ 255.00	
Local foodshelves	\$ 200.00	

**Does not include checks/cash directly made out to the organization*

Total Expenses **\$ 117,404.07**

Submitted by Raquel Hansen

First Lutheran Church
2021 INCOME STATEMENT

INCOME

General Offering:		\$116,104.23
Member Offerings:	\$105,822.00	
Non-Member Offerings:	\$7,793.23	
Cash Offerings:	\$2,489.00	

Other Income and Transfers:		\$821.00
	\$821.00	

Designated Giving:		\$14,665.00
MN Teen Challenge	\$1,248.00	
Pastor Bob Mankaka and Paola	\$3,860.00	
TAT - Home of Hope	\$8,797.00	
Mission Mexico	\$255.00	
Local Foodshelves	\$200.00	
Laundry Love	\$305.00	

**Does not include checks/cash directly made out to the organization*

TOTAL INCOME		\$131,590.23
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Beginning Checkbook Balance January 1, 2021		\$48,149.83
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Total Income		\$131,590.23
Subtotal		\$179,740.06
Less Expenses		\$117,404.07
Ending General Fund Balance December 31, 2021		\$62,335.99

Designated Giving Kept in Checking		\$ 2,000.00
Laundry Love	\$ -	
Dedicated Offerings	\$ -	
Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 2,000.00	

Amount available less the Designated Giving		\$60,335.99
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Submitted by Raquel Hansen

First Lutheran Church
2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

	Approved 2021	Current 2021	Proposed 2022
Benevolence	\$ 10,300.00	\$ 11,445.00	\$ 10,900.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,499.70	\$ 1,750.00
<u>Education</u>			
Adult Education	\$ 700.00	\$ 373.89	\$ 700.00
Pastors Education	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,088.50	\$ 250.00
Youth Education	\$ 200.00	\$ 311.82	\$ 300.00
<u>Insurance</u>			
Workman's Comp. Ins.	\$ 600.00	\$ 516.50	\$ 600.00
Property Insurance	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 2,914.30	\$ 3,125.00
LCMC Conference	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,309.50	\$ 1,500.00
Office Expenses	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,145.00	\$ 2,500.00
<u>Outreach & Fellowship</u>			
Outreach & Fellowship	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 334.37	\$ 1,000.00
Youth Mission Trip		\$ -	\$ -
Adult Mission Trip		\$ -	\$ -
Laundry Love	\$ 850.00	\$ 2,154.50	\$ 1,500.00
<u>Pastor Expenses</u>			
Mileage	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 246.40	\$ 1,000.00
Pastor Call and Transition		\$ 122.98	\$ 2,000.00
Ministry	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00
<u>Salaries</u>			
Pastor Salary	\$ 66,500.00	\$ 66,500.04	\$ 67,000.00
Organist Salary	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,575.00	\$ 6,200.00
Custodian Salary	\$ 1,560.00	\$ 1,590.00	\$ 1,768.00
<u>Utilities</u>			
Telephone/Internet	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 971.43	\$ 1,000.00
Electrical	\$ 750.00	\$ 675.91	\$ 750.00
Natural Gas	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,523.80	\$ 1,900.00
Waste Disposal	\$ 200.00	\$ 182.52	\$ 210.00
Well Rent	\$ 180.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 180.00
Assessment	\$ 700.00	\$ 660.00	\$ 700.00
Visiting Pastor	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,100.60	\$ 1,300.00
Worship Expenses	\$ 500.00	\$ 622.41	\$ 600.00
TOTAL	\$ 102,940.00	\$ 103,044.17	\$ 109,133.00

Submitted by Raquel Hansen

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Term</u>
<u>Executive Council (3 year term)</u>			
President	Lisa Borchert	Lisa Borchert	2020-22
Vice President	Jim Springer	Jim Springer	2022-24
Secretary	Mary Arfmann	Mary Arfmann	2022-24
Treasurer	Raquel Hansen	Raquel Hansen	2020-22
<u>Board of Trustees</u>			
(3 year term)	*Dave Jensen	*Dave Jensen	2021-23
Elected by Congregation	Todd Hansen	Todd Hansen	2022-24
	Wendell Peterson	Wendell Peterson	2020-22
<u>Board of Deacons</u>			
(3 year term)	*Randy Borchert	*Randy Borchert	2020-22
Elected by Congregation	Steve Miller	Lori Springer	2022-24
	Kathy Streiff	Rhonda Nappin	2021-23
<u>Board of Education</u>			
(2 year term)	Lori Springer	John PirkI	2021-22
Elected by Congregation	Kim PirkI	Amanda Betters	2022-23
<u>Nominating Committee</u>			
(1 year term)	Mary Arfmann	Council Member	2022
Elected by Congregation	Dave Jensen	Council Member	2022
by nomination at Annual Mtg.	Warren Suchanek	Open	2022
	Amanda Buzzard	Open	2022
	Joey PirkI	Open	2022
<u>Auditors</u>			
(3 year term)	Warren Suchanek	Randy Borchert	2022-24
Appointed by Council	Kathy Peterson	Kathy Peterson	2020-22
	Darla Skalicky	Darla Skalicky	2020-22
<u>Benevolence Committee</u>			
(2 year term)	Open	Randy Borchert	2022-23
Appointed by Council	Raquel Hansen	Open	2022-23
<u>Finance Committee</u>			
(3 year term)	*Randy Borchert	*Jim Springer	2020-22
Appointed by Council	Jim Springer	Warren Suchanek	2022-24
	Raquel Hansen (Treasurer)	Raquel Hansen (Treasurer)	2020-22
	Open	Open	
<u>Head Ushers</u>			
	Jim Springer	Jim Springer	
	Warren Suchanek	Warren Suchanek	

* Designated Chairperson

* Names in bold are upon Congregational vote