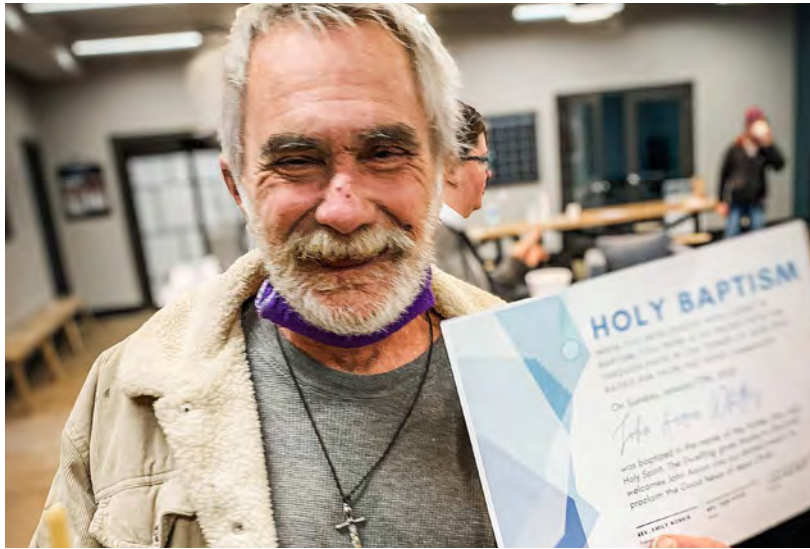


# ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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

**Calvary Lutheran Annual Meeting Agenda**  
**February 6, 2022 – 10:30 am**

**Call to Order**

**Opening Prayer**

**Establish Quorum**

**Approval of 2021 Minutes**

Annual Meeting - February 9, 2021

Semi-Annual meeting – Not held in 2021

pages 3-4

**Approval of Financial Reports**

Balance Sheet

Operating Receipts and Disbursements

2022 Budget

page 6

page 7

pages 8-9

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval of amendments to constitution**

**Elections –**

Church Council

Nominating Committee members

Endowment Committee members

page 5

**Approval of Endowment Fund distribution**

pages 10-11

**ADJOURNMENT**

## CONGREGATIONAL & STAFF REPORTS

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Becky Piper – Co-Pastor	page 14
3 Years – 5th Grade Education Coordinator – Sonia Sykora	page 15
Children’s Music Ministry 2021 – Deb Martin	page 15
Bluegrass Saturday Worship Service – Deb Martin	page 15
Pre-Confirmation, Confirmation Coordinator – Hannah Fleming	page 16
High School Youth – Tom Martin	page 17
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Custodian	page 17
Office Manager – Lee Ann Henry	page 18
Family Ministries Coordinator/Website/Facebook – Kellie Meissner	page 18
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**Calvary Lutheran Church**  
**Congregation Annual Meeting Notes**  
**(Informational meeting)**  
**February 28th, 2021**

The Annual Congregational Meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Cheryl Chapman – President of CLC Church Council.

Quorum definition and count. Cheryl Chapman went through the definition of a quorum as defined in our constitution. The definition includes 10% of all “voting members” of the congregation. Based on the churches most current records, a quorum would be 96 voting members. There were 61 voting members in attendance for this meeting (in person 21, Video conference 41). Quorum was not reached. This meeting was conducted as informational only.

Presidents Report – as submitted on page 13 of 2020 Annual report. Cheryl Chapman went on the thank the staff and the council for their dedication during a tough year (Covid).

Kathy Miller, CLC Business Manager, reviewed the 2020 Treasurer’s Report on pages 4-11 of the 2019 Annual Report.

Balance Sheet – 2019 and 2020 comparison (Page 4)

Operating Receipts and Disbursements – 2019 and 2020 comparison (Page 6). We disbursed \$27,467 more than we received in 2020. A slight decrease from 2019, where there was a \$5k shortfall.

2021 Spending Plan – We are under a continuing resolution since we could not ratify the budget (no semi-annual meeting due to Covid). (Page 8)

Review of the 2021 Stewardship campaign. Pledges are down 25% in the number of pledges from 2020.

Cheryl Chapman read the Nominating Committee ballot on page 3 of the 2020 Annual Report.

Nominated to serve the first three-year term on the Church Council is Troy Kilpatrick.

Nominated to serve a second three-year term on the Church Council is Bill Eldridge and Nancy May.

Nominated to serve a three-year term on the Endowment Committee is Ed Toms.

Nominated to each serve a one-year term on the Nominating Committee were Jon D Johnson, Tim Becker and Reeva Mathieson

Cheryl Chapman reviewed the 2020 Endowment Fund Report on page 12 of the 2020 Annual Report. A review of the distributions from the Endowment Fund as recommended by the Committee. The endowment fund is just under \$500k and the committee is tasked with

distributing 5% of the value every year. Of the 5%, the committee is called to give 25% to community outreach, 25% to ELCA support and 50% to Calvary Lutheran Church programs.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jon D Johnson, Council Secretary

## ***Calvary Lutheran Church Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes***

There was no Semi-Annual Meeting in 2021.

## *Nominating Committee Ballot*

**Nominating Committee Members:** The Nominating Committee met to fulfill its charge to place names of the Congregational Members in nomination to fill positions on the Church Council, Endowment Committee and Nominating Committee.

**There are three (3) positions on the Church Council.**

Nominations: (Alphabetical Order): Kasey Belzer, Jess Gromer (eligible to serve second term), Martin Kerkenbush (eligible to serve second term), Dan Kuecker, Mark Massa, Sarah Steiner. The Congregation will vote for three (3).

**There are (2) positions on the Endowment Committee.**

Nominations: (Alphabetical Order): Jennifer Baloun, Matthew Odden. The Congregation will vote for two (2).

**There are three (3) positions on the Nominating Committee.** Jon Johnson, Tim Becker, Doug Thrash. The Congregation will vote for three (3).

**Calvary Lutheran Church  
Financial Reports  
Comparative Historical Balance Sheet**

<b><u>Assets</u></b>	<b><u>12/31/2021</u></b>	<b><u>12/31/2020</u></b>
Cash & Cash Equivalents		
Checking	\$ 136,790	\$ 138,229
Memorials	36,313	29,433
Designated Funds	200,962	159,480
Wells Fargo Debit Card	1,500	1,500
ELCA Mission Investment fund	10,207	18,783
Organ Fund	10,431	10,430
We Care Food Certificates	5,525	5,525
Petty Cash	100	100
Wells Fargo Investments	70	100
Checking (PPP loan proceeds)	-	103,085
ELCA Mission Investment Fund - Capital Improvements	313,775	311,928
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	715,673	778,593
 Trust Fund (Endowment Fund) - see page 7		
 Land, Building & Equipment		
Land	443,906	443,906
Building & Equipment	7,607,989	7,595,489
Pipe organ	391,783	391,783
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Land, Buildings and Equipment	8,443,677	8,431,178
 <b>Total Assets</b>	 <b><u><u>\$ 9,159,350</u></u></b>	 <b><u><u>\$9,209,771</u></u></b>
 <b><u>Liabilities and Fund Balance</u></b>		
Misc. Accounts and Payroll Taxes Payable	\$ 7,212	\$6,951
Plains Commerce Bank (PPP loan)	0	103,100
Net Dedicated Funds Payable	238,775	190,413
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Liabilities	\$ 245,987	\$ 300,464
Fund Balance	8,913,363	8,909,307
 <b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	 <b><u><u>\$9,159,350</u></u></b>	 <b><u><u>\$9,209,771</u></u></b>

**Calvary Lutheran Church  
Financial Reports  
Operating Receipts and Disbursements  
December 2021 and 2020**

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	% Variance	\$ Variance	Prior Year Actual YTD	% Variance	\$ Variance
<b>Receipts:</b>							
Regular Offering	\$878,705	\$1,096,680	-19.9%	(217,975)	\$841,836	4.4%	36,869
Special Offering	23,145	\$33,436	-30.8%	(10,291)	25,666	-9.8%	(2,521)
Other Offering	9,747	\$12,995	-25.0%	(3,248)	9,975	-2.3%	(228)
Special Grants	103,100						
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$1,014,697</b>	<b>\$1,143,110</b>	<b>-11.2%</b>	<b>(128,413)</b>	<b>\$877,477</b>	<b>15.6%</b>	<b>137,220</b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>							
Witness	\$119,520	\$118,833	-0.6%	687	\$91,363	30.8%	28,157
Worship	7,792	10,200	23.6%	(2,408)	7,437	4.8%	355
Education	21,348	46,880	54.5%	(25,532)	16,912	26.2%	4,436
Building	149,999	227,140	34.0%	(77,141)	147,605	1.6%	2,394
Support	614,659	688,057	10.7%	(73,398)	607,477	1.2%	7,182
Administration	31,908	52,000	38.6%	(20,092)	34,150	-6.6%	(2,242)
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$945,226</b>	<b>\$1,143,110</b>	<b>17.3%</b>	<b>(197,884)</b>	<b>\$904,944</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>40,282</b>
<b>Capital</b>							
Equipment purchases	30,650			30,650			30,650
Escrow for repairs	36,058	\$0		36,058	\$0		36,058
<b>Receipts Over (Under) Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,763</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$33,413</b>	<b>-\$27,467</b>		<b>\$30,230</b>



**Calvary Lutheran Church  
2022 - 2026 Spending Plan**

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>WITNESS</b>					
ELCA OUTREACH	46,500	49,988	53,737	57,767	60,655
LOCAL BENEVOLENCE	53,500	57,513	61,826	66,463	71,448
DUES/SYNOD CONF	6,750	6,919	7,092	7,269	7,451
ADVERTISING	17,000	17,425	17,861	18,307	18,765
COFFEE HOUR EXP	5,000	5,125	5,253	5,384	5,519
<b>TOTAL WITNESS</b>	<b>128,750</b>	<b>136,969</b>	<b>145,768</b>	<b>155,190</b>	<b>163,837</b>
<b>WORSHIP</b>					
WORSHIP/MUSIC SUPPLIES	8,100	8,303	8,510	8,723	8,941
MAINTENANCE PIANOS/ORGAN	2,750	2,819	2,889	2,961	3,035
<b>TOTAL WORSHIP</b>	<b>10,850</b>	<b>11,121</b>	<b>11,399</b>	<b>11,684</b>	<b>11,976</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION	34,150	35,858	37,650	39,533	41,510
FAMILY MINISTRIES	2,500	2,625	2,756	2,894	3,039
ADULT EDUCATION	2,850	2,993	3,142	3,299	3,464
CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS	2,000	2,100	2,205	2,315	2,431
SPEAKER NIGHT	2,000	2,100	2,205	2,315	2,431
FAITH IN ACTION	5,000	5,250	5,513	5,788	6,078
NEW MEMBERS	2,000	2,100	2,205	2,315	2,431
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>50,500</b>	<b>53,025</b>	<b>55,676</b>	<b>58,460</b>	<b>61,383</b>
<b>BUILDINGS /GROUNDS</b>					
UTILITIES	73,300	75,133	77,011	78,936	80,909
MAINTENANCE	66,250	67,906	69,604	71,344	73,128
INSURANCE	15,000	15,375	15,759	16,153	16,557
TECHNOLOGY	22,304	23,616	24,206	24,812	25,432
<b>TOTAL BUILDING</b>	<b>176,854</b>	<b>182,030</b>	<b>186,580</b>	<b>191,245</b>	<b>196,026</b>
<b>SUPPORT</b>					
MINISTERIAL SALARIES	179,950	188,948	198,395	208,315	218,730
PROGRAMMING/SUPPORT	354,708	372,443	391,066	410,619	431,150
PYRL TAXES/INS/PENSION	196,733	206,570	216,898	227,743	239,130
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>731,391</b>	<b>767,961</b>	<b>806,359</b>	<b>846,677</b>	<b>889,010</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>					
OFFICE SUPPLIES	21,000	21,525	22,063	22,615	23,180
ACCOUNTING	2,500	2,563	2,627	2,692	2,760
ADDITIONAL OVERHEAD	18,250	18,706	19,174	19,653	20,145
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>41,750</b>	<b>42,794</b>	<b>43,864</b>	<b>44,960</b>	<b>46,084</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,140,095</b>	<b>1,193,899</b>	<b>1,249,646</b>	<b>1,308,216</b>	<b>1,368,317</b>
<b>CAPITAL FUNDS</b>					
DESIGNATED CAPITAL FUNDS	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
ESCROW FOR RESERVE FUND					
ESCROW EQUIPMENT REPAIR					
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING &amp; CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>1,165,095</b>	<b>1,218,899</b>	<b>1,274,646</b>	<b>1,333,216</b>	<b>1,393,317</b>

**Calvary Lutheran Church  
2022 Spending Plan**

	2019 YTD 12/31/2019	2020 YTD 12/31/2020	2021 BUDGET	2021 YTD 12/31/2021	2022 BUDGET
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<b>WITNESS</b>					
ELCA OUTREACH	44,313	45,642	45,642	45,642	46,500
LOCAL BENEVOLENCE	36,346	41,797	53,440	45,245	53,500
DUES/SYNOD CONF	5,051	2,082	7,250	3,021	6,750
ADVERTISING	6,183	569	6,500	14,839	17,000
COFFEE HOUR EXP	4,586	1,273	6,000	773	5,000
<b>TOTAL WITNESS</b>	<b>96,479</b>	<b>91,363</b>	<b>118,832</b>	<b>109,520</b>	<b>128,750</b>

<b>WORSHIP</b>					
WORSHIP/MUSIC SUPPLIES	7,506	5,623	7,450	5,426	8,100
MAINTENANCE PIANOS	2,018	1,814	2,750	2,367	2,750
<b>TOTAL WORSHIP</b>	<b>9,524</b>	<b>7,437</b>	<b>10,200</b>	<b>7,793</b>	<b>10,850</b>

<b>EDUCATION</b>					
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION	19,092	12,072	35,285	18,873	34,150
FAMILY MINISTRIES	2,009	1,491	2,500	2,011	2,500
ADULT EDUCATION	2,179	1,810	3,550	293	2,850
CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS	1,982	711	1,545	0	2,000
SPEAKER NIGHT	1,700	31	2,000	0	2,000
FAITH IN ACTION					5,000
NEW MEMBERS	1,178	798	2,000	171	2,000
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>28,140</b>	<b>16,913</b>	<b>46,880</b>	<b>21,348</b>	<b>50,500</b>

<b>BUILDINGS /GROUNDS</b>					
UTILITIES	66,670	57,497	80,200	68,778	73,300
MAINTENANCE	45,172	45,188	66,400	52,006	66,250
INSURANCE	13,317	14,139	17,500	14,764	15,000
COVID EXPENSES		2,460	0	403	0
TECHNOLOGY	16,170	28,321	63,040	14,048	22,304
<b>TOTAL BUILDING</b>	<b>141,329</b>	<b>147,605</b>	<b>227,140</b>	<b>149,999</b>	<b>176,854</b>

<b>SUPPORT</b>					
MINISTERIAL SALARIES	166,970	172,476	172,475	172,876	179,950
PROGRAMMING/SUPPORT	314,397	296,023	353,098	299,314	354,708
PYRL TAXES/INS/PENSION	146,210	138,978	162,485	142,469	196,733
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>627,577</b>	<b>607,477</b>	<b>688,058</b>	<b>614,659</b>	<b>731,391</b>

<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>					
OFFICE SUPPLIES	20,831	22,140	26,500	16,614	21,000
ACCOUNTING	0	80	2,500	2,853	2,500
ADDITIONAL OVERHEAD	13,048	11,930	23,000	12,426	18,250
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>33,879</b>	<b>34,150</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>31,893</b>	<b>41,750</b>

<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>936,928</b>	<b>904,945</b>	<b>1,143,110</b>	<b>935,212</b>	<b>1,140,095</b>
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<b>CAPITAL FUNDS</b>					
DESIGNATED CAPITAL FUNDS				623	25,000
ESCROW FOR RESERVE FUND					
ESCROW EQUIPMENT REPAIR	0	0			
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>25,000</b>

<b>TOTAL OPERATING &amp; CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>936,928</b>	<b>904,945</b>	<b>1,143,110</b>	<b>935,835</b>	<b>1,165,095</b>
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# ***2021 ENDOWMENT FUND***

The Calvary Lutheran Church Endowment Fund was established in 1985. In 2017, the funds were moved from Wells Fargo bank to the ELCA Endowment Fund. Oversight is provided by a five-member elected committee made up of Calvary Church members. All gifts to the endowment are tax deductible. Up to five percent of the fund's value at the end of the calendar year is available for distribution the following year. Final numbers for the fund's value on December 31, 2021, will not be available until mid to late February. Using the November 30, 2021, balance of \$544,570 - approximately \$27,228 will be available for disbursement during 2022. Since the management of the actual funds is managed by the ELCA Endowment Fund, the committee now focuses the majority of its work towards identifying the best use of funds available for distribution and developing and implementing strategies to increase the donor base and memorial and endowment donations overall through the education and motivation of church members.

The Endowment Committee recommends that during 2022, 5% of the value of the funds as of December 31, 2021, be distributed. Since final numbers are not available, the recommendations are by percentage and will be applied based on the year-end dollar value of the fund, as provided by the ELCA.

## **These percentage are as follows:**

### **25% ELCA support:**

Lutheran Outdoors – 12.5%  
Pine Ridge Retreat Center – 12.5%

### **25% Community Outreach in SD**

Church Response – 13.75%  
One Heart Campus – 6.25%  
Wambli ska Wacipi – 5.00%

### **50% Calvary Lutheran church (including capital improvements)**

Senior High activities – 21.75%  
Seminary Scholarships – 6.5%  
Middle School trip – 21.75%

Programs and services funded by the endowment during 2021 were reviewed and considered for funding in 2022. Changes were made both in terms of who would receive funding and the amount of that funding, based primarily on recommendations from church staff. The impact of the pandemic on prior and future funding and needs was considered as final decisions were made. Possible ways of obtaining additional input regarding who to fund and amounts will be researched during 2022.

During 2021, the Committee devoted the majority of its time and work towards identifying priorities and putting a framework in place to develop a plan for developing the policies and action plans needed to increase endowment gifts over time. A draft gift policy was provided to the Church Council early in 2021 but has not been acted upon. Based on recent committee work, it is expected this policy will be revised before final approval is requested in 2022. During 2022, the committee will be finalizing and implementing a plan for developing and providing information and education regarding

financial planning and planned to give to church members through a variety of programs, approaches, and new materials. This will likely include additional investment options that are under consideration to increase the potential that church members will find a product that meets their preferences for holding and investing their donations on behalf of the church.

Respectfully presented by the 2021 Endowment Fund Committee,  
Karen Pearson Chair  
Members Ed Toms, Jennifer Baloun, Matt Odden and Brad Estes

# *Church Council President*

## *Cheryl Chapman*

For us at Calvary Lutheran Church, we thank God for walking with us, teaching us to praise Him and love one another in a world of challenge and change. Our congregational vision and mission have served us well during these difficult times, as we immerse ourselves in the values of *servant leadership*, *joyful generosity*, and *intentional relationships*. In doing so, we have become a caring and connected faith community. Here are just a few of the highlights:

***Thank you to our church council members for the new Bibles in our pews!***



**Faith in Action:** Our work extends beyond the walls of our church into the community, connecting us with other churches and organizations. Our model is one of accompaniment, or walking side-by-side, in service.



**Ministries:** As we find our ministries returning in 2021, we invite you to join other congregational members in serving ministries, both within and outside the walls of the church.



**Stewardship:** Our theme for 2022 was rooted in our guiding statements, as we continue to fund the church operations and facilities, the online and TV broadcasts (thanks to our recent technology upgrades), and the ministries serving our members and community. Our stewardship of your gifts have enabled us to make sure our church is refreshed after many years of “good use,” since we built the church. We look forward to a replacement multi-use floor in the Fellowship Hall and improvements to the Narthex as we expand opportunities to become a caring and connected faith community.

**Governance:** Our church is governed by a constitution, recommended by both the national (church-wide) and state (synod) Evangelical Lutheran Church. It has been several years since the constitution has been updated. You should have received the proposed updates in the mail in early January. These changes align with the new policies set by church-wide and the synod. We will approve the 2022 budget, constitutional updates, and hold elections after the church service at the **Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 6, 2022** via Zoom and in-person.

**Opportunities to Serve:** We find that there are so many more opportunities to serve: kitchen, meals, deliveries, education, youth activities, music, playing, singing, and reaching out to our fellow congregational members. Discover the ministry that fits you and your passions!

**Resources:** In addition to Calvary Lutheran Church, the Evangelical Church of America (ELCA) and the South Dakota Synod are rich in resources for your personal faith journey, congregational engagement, and community leadership.

**Calvary:** [www.calvaryrapidcity.org](http://www.calvaryrapidcity.org) · **SD Synod:** [www.sdsynod.org](http://www.sdsynod.org) · **ELCA:** [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)  
**Living Lutheran** [www.livinglutheran.org](http://www.livinglutheran.org) is the official magazine of the ELCA and would encourage you to subscribe to the e-Digest. Or if you would like to receive a print edition, please call the church office at 605-342-9043. You may wish to especially check out SOFIA—Stories of Faith in Action. *Cheryl Chapman, Council President, 2018-2021*

# *Co-Pastor's Annual Report*

## *Pastor David Piper*

**Calvary Lutheran Church Mission: Welcome and inspire ALL with grace, courage and love.**

As we look at 2021 in the rear-view mirror, the year just flew by and as I sit back and look, we had a very good year. I want to start by thanking you for all you do, for your serving in the community and here at church. I ask you to join me in thanking your council and your staff for all they do also. We really are blessed to have a great staff and a caring council.

Being the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a pandemic, we found ourselves finishing up a hybrid approach to education for the 2020-21 year and starting a mostly youth back to in-person learning 2021-2022 school year. It truly warms my heart to see a lot of our young people back in the church learning and I am excited that families are still taking the at home learning seriously. I can say I am still truly thankful for technology that helps us keep in touch and the ability to adapt to the ever-changing environment around us.

Christmas Eve also was exciting to see good numbers of people back to normal attendance and also knowing that many people still choose to stay home because they had the ability to watch from home. I would like to say a special thanks to the tech people in this church that help us put on worship whether that is in person or at home. Please join me in thanking Kirk and Lori Guymon, Jon and Tina Johnson, Wayne Rosby, John Petersen, Corban and Joshua Piper, and Lee Ann Henry.

I also want to thank you for being a generous congregation; because of your generosity many people around Rapid City, the state and around the globe have been helped. Over \$100,000 flowed out of this congregation to help people. Rapid City people and organizations received over \$50,000 of that. We really are making a difference and we are hearing from our partners that they appreciate all you do.

This year I am excited that your council has planned that we update the fellowship floor and we will have the ability to have more fellowship opportunities for the entire congregation. I am also excited to see the narthex take on more of a coffee shop feel. These are things that have been talked about many years and was always part of the original vision when this church was wonderfully designed by our own Tim Cheever and wonderful built by our own Dave and Wayne Gustafson at Gustafson Construction. Thank you for their leadership!

It has been a great year and it is an honor to be one of your pastors. I am excited to see what 2022 brings. Blessings and thank you!

Reach up, Reach in, Reach out.

Blessings,  
Pastor David

# *Co-Pastor's Annual Report*

## *Becky Piper*

**Vision:** To be a connected and caring faith community.  
**Mission:** Welcome and inspire **ALL** with grace, courage and love.  
**Tag line:** Reach up, Reach in, Reach out  
**Values:** Servant Leadership, Joyful Generosity and Intentional Relationships

**Looking Back:** Who would've thought that we would still be talking about COVID through all of 2021? Our (above) guiding statements continued to be the foundation that held us together as a community while we adapted to new ways of doing things as a congregation. As we returned to some of our ministries and worship services, there were still some things that were different. Our worship services were in-person AND online/televised. Holy Communion was brought back once/month using safety precautions. Wednesday night education, meal and worship was back. The pastors each received their first-ever sabbaticals (10-weeks each) during the summer while the staff and council kept Calvary focused on our mission. We had some staff changes in 2021 and new staff brought on board.

**Where we are now:** Currently, the pastors, staff and council leadership has moved back into strategic planning by taking a look at our building usage and its future needs. Some much-needed updates to the fellowship hall/gym space, and the narthex/gathering space were put together. As everyone knows, all good plans take time, especially during a pandemic; and we await the renovations to begin. The council also spent time on finally bringing much-needed updates to the constitution, as required by the synod and the ELCA (being presented at this annual meeting). Even amidst COVID, our ministries and outreach is happening.

**Leading Forward:** We know that there are exciting ministry opportunities for Calvary in the future. We will continue on strategic planning by working through how our community and life together is organized and structured, as well as look for ways for all to stay connected in-person and through technology. There will be time for prayer as we "pray big" for what is next. And, in 2024, Calvary Lutheran Church will be celebrating a 75th anniversary.

Remember, a program isn't going to change someone's life, but a relationship will. I shared this in 2019 and I share it again because it's THAT important. If someone asks you why they should come to Calvary Lutheran, what would you say? How about this: "We are a church that connects and cares for one another by welcoming and inspiring all with grace, courage and love. We strive to live out our values of servant leadership, joyful generosity and intentional relationships and we invite you into our way of life."

As always, I ask for patience, prayer and participation. I hope that you continue in all three so that we can proceed to be a vital congregation that lives out our faith in our church and in our community.

Blessings,  
Pastor Becky

## ***3 Year Olds – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Education Program***

***Sonia Sykora***

**In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus said...” Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I commanded you.”**

The education program at Calvary calls all of us to hear and respond to His great commission and call to teach.

Fall 2021 we returned to a more ”normal” Wednesday evening schedule with slightly lower numbers. The year before Covid (2019-2020) we registered 184 preschool-fifth graders, and this fall we registered 133 with 7 families opting for At Home curriculum. Music was moved to the Sanctuary to accommodate for social distancing, and we shortened our class time by 5 minutes to alleviate congestion in the hallways between sessions.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all Wednesday School families. Young families are busy, and it takes energy and commitment to gather the kids and attend each week. The Christian Education Program at Calvary remains strong as parents continue to pass on their faith, knowing that scriptures teach us that faith formation begins in the home.

We continue to pray that as we journey through the new year, we are strengthened in faith, empowered in serving and blessed with God’s love and grace.

## ***Children’s Music Ministry 2021***

***Deb Martin***

The Children follow the education calendar from September through April. The format from February through April was altered this year to allow families to attend and sit together but still maintain space in the sanctuary. Songs and Bible stories were presented each month and also put online for access anytime. Efforts were made to actively engage children during this children’s time. The calendar from September through December was back to normal with access for families to all education and worship nights. Children practice in the sanctuary during their music time on Wednesday evenings to allow for extra spacing. A centering activity, devotions, and exposure to many children’s songs is included in their music time.

## ***Bluegrass Saturday Service 2021***

***Deb Martin***

The Bluegrass service is offered the first Saturday of each month except during Lent and Advent. Musicians rehearse twice before each service. Nine musicians participated in the Bluegrass Saturday service in 2021. Thank-you for supporting this ministry for the congregation.



## ***Pre-Confirmation/Confirmation*** ***Hannah Fleming***

The 2021 confirmation year was a blessing and a challenge as we navigated the Covid-19 pandemic. We praise God for the opportunity to provide Christian education to our young people amid the pandemic.

**Pre-Confirmation (6<sup>th</sup> Graders):** We used the curriculum “Echo the Story” which offered engaging and hands-on learning experience to our six graders. Through the grace of God and more active engagements from parents, we provided Christian educational support to 26 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Sixth graders and parents enthusiastically participated in two community service projects in October & December 2021.

**Confirmation (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders):** The Confirmation ministry placed emphasis on faith formation for both students and their adult leaders. 55 students and 11 adult guides participated in the program. The four major components of this ministry are worship, outreach, learning, and fellowship. Our diligent and dedicated Confirmation guides provided weekly spiritual support, encouragement, and consistency in a safe environment for our students. Guides are always encouraged to present it in ways that positively impact our students. We used the *Here We Stand* curriculum. We confirmed 24 8<sup>th</sup> graders on October 25, 2021. Confirmation students and parents actively participated in a community service projects in November & December 2021.

**Mentor Ministry:** The Confirmation Ministry began a mentoring program in 2021! The program offers the privilege for trusted adults to help young people navigate their faith journey as well as life’s experiences. Our focus is to “Tend the flock of God that is in your charge...” (1Peter 5:2) on a smaller group basis. Research has shown that young people benefit from close, caring relationships with safe adults who serve as positive role models. Thank you to our 15 caring adults who mentored 15 smaller confirmation groups once a month. It has been a blessing!

**Retreat and Mission Trip:** Calvary took a group of 26 students and 8 adults to the annual confirmation retreat at Outlaw Ranch from September 18-19, 2021. The theme of the retreat was ‘I am a child of God (John.1:12). At the retreat, students participated in the following activities: explored their identity as children of God, horseback riding, challenge course, archery, faith project, faith statement, outdoor worship, and a service project. They were also challenged to live out their faith at home and in the community. The annual middle school mission trip was cancelled due to the Corvid-19 pandemic in 2021.

**Day Camp:** Due to the pandemic, our annual Day Camp was cancelled in 2021.

***Thanks for you unwavering support to God’s work. Blessings!***

## ***High School Youth Group***

### ***Deacon Tom Martin***

This year offered a unique High School experience that has been rewarding for the students and for the adult volunteers. Even through the advent of COVID-19 + variants, we were able to learn, explore, share and participate. During the first part of the year, we met in the Fellowship Hall so that we could properly distance ourselves, plus we were able to offer a ZOOM presence every week. We have cautiously moved back into the high school youth room. We have grown to know each other, as well as to know Christ better. We have matured in our relationships and grown stronger in our bonds to one another. We have truly discovered the Godly blessings of one another!

Unfortunately, in January, the High School Youth Group ski trip to Bozeman, Montana was canceled because of the increased spread of COVID. We are hopeful to schedule the ski trip in the future as it is one of the pinnacle events of our school year.

We are looking forward to a meaningful Peer Ministry Camp at Outlaw Ranch in the future. We will once again need to be mindful of the safety and security of our students in the age of COVID-19. We were not able to have our summer impact trip in 2021. Because of the grip of COVID-19 we were not able to participate in a trip.

In a year gripped by the threat of COVID-19 and its variance, I think we have done a good job of creating a Ministry environment and keeping our treasured youth safe and secure. Thank you for all the support from the congregation throughout the year. Thank you for loving students!

## ***Wednesday Worship Team***

### ***Deb Martin***

The Wednesday Worship Team meets Monday evenings to rehearse music which is presented at Wednesday Service from September through April. The team provided 3 services monthly from February through April due to COVID as families signed up for 1 service and education night per month that they wished to attend. Wednesday night worship resumed “as usual” from September through December with worship at 6:30. The worship team also played for Confirmation Sunday which was October 31<sup>st</sup> this year. Twelve musicians participated from September through December.

After 15 years of leading the Worship Team, I resigned on October 12, effective December 31<sup>st</sup>, to allow ample time for the transition to the new team leader. I cannot thank the congregation and the council enough for the opportunity to serve in this way. It was an absolute joy to lead the Wednesday Worship Team for 15 years and to be able to work with so many musicians from age 14-70+. THANK YOU to the musicians, council, and the congregation!

## ***Custodian***

**Thank you to James Jennings** for the 17 years he took care of our facility as head custodian at Calvary. James retired June 30, 2021. Currently Paul Lone Hill is our head custodian and Wayne Rosby and Jim Simons are helping out.

## ***Office Manager*** ***Lee Ann Henry***

As Office Manager, I do a variety of jobs including helping to create the weekly slides that are used in our weekend worship services, keep the membership records current, correspondence, filing, answer the telephone and welcome people who come into the church office. I would also like to thank the many volunteers who help in the church office doing a variety of jobs throughout the year. You are appreciated! You can find more information on church activities by going to our website – [www.calvaryrapidcity.org](http://www.calvaryrapidcity.org). I am very happy to be a part of Calvary's staff.

## ***Family Ministries/Website/Facebook*** ***Kellie Meissner***

Milestone Ministry is one of my favorite ways of helping parents pass on their Christian faith. I love how it brings an awareness of God's presence into the home while also bringing the events of our everyday lives into the congregation. With Milestones we celebrate will all children/parents ages birth to 12th Grade. The beginning of 2021 was a little different as we were still participating at limited capacity, and that affected Milestones. In January we had the pre-school Milestone, February we had the 1st Graders - Favor For Neighbors, and in March we celebrated with the 4th Grade group in the Passing on the Faith Milestone. Once September 2021 started, we went back to normal Milestone celebrations in the classroom time as well as worship.

I've also had a fun year with Family Events; starting the year with making Valentine Cards for Seniors, we didn't have the card making day, but we did have congregational members make cards at home, and help sign them. We put up the Prayer Praise Wall during Lent, and instead of having an Easter Event - FM made Holy Week Resurrection Garden Kits for families to put together in their homes. Family Ministries hosted a month of distributing Hat & Scarves on the statues downtown. During the summer Family Ministries hosted the Pet Blessing, the Biker (Petal & Motor) Blessing, a TP/Paper Goods drive in conjunction with David's Sabbatical, Calvary Swimming Pool Day, and the annual Love Inc's Clothe-A-Kid. FM also helped with 3 Music on the Hill events with water and snacks. We started the Fall off with a Ministry Fair, and hosting "You Are Treasured" Trunk or Treat & Feeding SD Food Drive and putting up the Veterans Day Memorial Wall. During Advent, Family Ministries helped with the Christmas Carol & Readings Sunday, weekly Advent Candles that the kids could light each week during worship, St. Nick Night and put together a table with ideas for families to worship Advent at home. I continue to work on the church's website, Facebook page (10 years - Nov 2020), Worship Announcements, and this year we added Instagram to our social media presence. I have also helped with the annual Stewardship Campaign by making the print and electronic material. Thank you for the opportunity to serve this wonderful congregation.

## *Wednesday Evening Meal Ministry*

### *Karla Mitzel*

Once again, we find ourselves in unusual circumstances. So, we tried unusual options! We cut back serving dates and had people register to receive take home meals. We served 18 weeks, 696 people with \$3,087.00 as the total meal cost. This cost relies on donations from meal participants.

We do most of our preparation on Tuesday morning. Wednesdays we set up and finish cooking. We are always looking for energetic (no experience required) new faces to help! Thank you to all who have helped in any way to make our program a success!

## *Worship & Music Director*

### *Albin Spreizer*

This has been another unusual year for the music we provide at service. It has been very rewarding and encouraging. We are back to fairly normal, in service, offerings of music. The broadcasts on KELO and streaming are well listened to and appreciated for the content and support they are intended to provide. Our choirs have resumed regular rehearsals and are all growing. That is a nice thing to see. We find people are wanting to be part of singing in church and our choirs support that desire. Our Wednesday music is undergoing a change in faces and sound. This is not under my purview but I am very hopeful the success of Wednesday service music will continue strongly. In summary, we are definitely singing the faith here at Calvary!

## *Faith In Action Program*

### *Hannah Westergaard*

2021 brought many new things with it. Newness can be challenging, but it also can bring so much goodness. We saw this in many ways during this past year. From giving your time to read in Church, knitting scarves, helping community organizations through contributions, and telling your stories of faith and goodness, there were so many ways that you have put your faith into action. Here are some of the many ways you have made a difference in and around Calvary:

**Welcome Home Festival** In September, we held the first Welcome Home Festival at Calvary. We were able to learn more about our own ministries, local organizations, and experience fellowship with one another.

**God's Work, Our Hands** In September, 50 of our members participated in "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday. We were able to level the playground rocks, replace broken portions of the playset, stain the playset, and clean up Calvary's grounds. We are truly blessed by the willingness and generosity of our congregation.

**New Members** Covid-19 limited us to only one New Member Luncheon this year. Twenty-three new members joined Calvary in 2021. Please join us in welcoming these families.

**Volunteering** We launched our Worship Service Volunteering site in the Fall of 2021. Thank you to all that volunteered before, during, and after services. Our volunteers are such an important part of our services.

## *Naomi Circle & Bible Study Group*

### *Mary Ann Kretschmar*

Naomi Circle began to meet again in the spring of 2021 after many months of Covid lockdowns and restrictions. In April, May and September, our members met in Sioux Park for coffee, fellowship, and Bible study. October and November we met at Calvary.

Our study for 2021-2022 is based on the book, *The Women of The Bible Speak* by Shannon Bream. The lessons feature “the wisdom of 16 women and their lessons for today.” Each chapter follow the lives of two women, their bravery, their struggles, the meanings of their lives and how they relate to each other. In our studies so far, we have learned about Sarah & Hagar, Rachel and Leah, Tamer & Ruth, Deborah & Jael. Our members take turns giving the lessons and serving as hostesses.

Our monthly offerings are donated in November to a local charity. The year we were able to donate \$400.00 to the Cornerstone Women and Children’s Mission.

We continue our monthly Circle meetings in the new year through May every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am at Calvary. We currently have 6 active members and 2 who are away during the winter months. We welcome any Calvary Church women who may want to visit or join our group to contact Lee Ann at the church office, 605-342-9043, or call Mary Ann Kretschmar, 605-787-0577.

## *Visitation/Kin Ministry*

### *Deacon Tom Martin*

**VISITATION:** Our visitation rotation has been a challenge through 2021. Prior to COVID-19 we were visiting the hospital on a very regular basis and we were getting out to see the nursing/assisted living homes very often as well. As COVID-19 started to become stronger and morphing out new variants, many of the facilities were forced to restrict outside visitations. We are trying to visit whenever and wherever possible, being constantly mindful of the safety and security for all parties in each situation.

**KIN MINISTRY:** We are in our sixth year of our visitation program called Kin Ministry. We have over 20 trained members who are visiting many of our homebound members. We are visiting our parishioners on a regular basis via phone calls, cards, and letters.

It is more important than ever to embrace new solutions and to foster meaningful relationships while sharing God’s love. It is time to reimagine our outreach ministries and build new connections with those that are becoming isolated. Taking the time to pause and have meaningful conversations with those in our church family is essential to the health and growth of Calvary. This is a big responsibility, and we can always use more caring and compassionate Kin Ministers. If you are interested in helping others in our congregation, please give me a call at the church office 342-9043.

## ***Calvary Quilters***

### ***Nancy Steever***

The Calvary Quilters had a very successful year despite a drop of members due to COVID 19, age and members moving. Several ladies sew at home, and we complete them on Thursdays.

The recipients of the 189 donated quilts were LSS, WAVI, Cornerstone Mission, Abbott House, Peaceful Pines Memory Unit, CASA, Habitat for Humanity, One Heart, Derr Foundation and Law Enforcement. Resources from the 89 quilts sold will be used to continue our mission as well as a monetary donation to Lutheran World Relief designated for the shipping of 400 quilts to countries in need. Donations of fabric, memorials and the purchase of quilts are much appreciated. Quilts are available year-round. We meet on Thursdays from 9:30 – 11:30 am. New members are welcome. God's Blessings.

## ***Altar Guild***

### ***Bill Eldridge***

Calvary Lutheran Church Altar Guild supported the church and worship by preparing communion throughout the year for members and visitors. In 2021, altar guild membership grew to 33 members and was divided into four teams. Each team served for one week during three months of the year and supported communion services on Saturday and Sunday. Altar Guild also provided care and maintenance for the altar paraments, linens, candles, Christmas candlelight services, and portable communion kits. Starting in February 2022, we plan on supporting communion for two weeks per month during Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday services.

After a pause for community health reasons starting in mid-March 2020, we welcomed the return of the in-church communion using traditional serving practices for weekend services starting on September 18, 2021, self-contained communion kits were used at church and also were available for at-home use. In 2021, the following tasks were completed:

- About 578 people were served communion during service using traditional serving practices from September 18 through December 24, 2021
- Maundy Thursday services were supported with Altar Guild members participating in the service
- Communion education was provided to elementary-grade students
- Approximately 1,000 candles were cleaned, distributed, and stored for Christmas Eve services. The 9:00 pm Christmas Eve service was supported by providing communion to about 68 people

Altar Guild always welcomes new members to share in the service of the church. Church service is a great way to meet new people and show your love of others. If you would like more information about supporting the church and sacrament of communion by serving on Altar Guild, please contact the church office or a Pastor.

## *Calvary In Action Committee*

### *Hannah Westergaard*

We want to thank you for all you have been doing at Calvary and around in our local community. Your gifts make a difference in many people's lives. Here are some of the many highlights from 2021:

- We dispersed over \$50,000 throughout our local, state, and worldwide communities.
- We continue to put hats and scarves on the Presidential Statues for those in need of winter gear. This ministry could not be done without the generosity of your donations of supplies, time, and talents.
- During the holiday season, we collected essential items for the Street Outreach Youth Program. These donations will directly aid youth in our community that may be experiencing uncertain times.

This is only a fraction of what you are doing to make this community better. So once again, thank you for all that you are doing. In 2022, we look forward to continuing to do many great things and sharing the stories of faith. We could not do this without you. Thank you for all you do.

# ***STATISTICS FOR 2021***

## **New Members – 2021**

Jack & Lori Baye; Elizabeth Lee; Arnie & Dr. Melody Schopp; Don & Kay Schumacher; Matt, Kara and August Schumacher; Ruth Stabile; Teri Georgas; Allan, Brenna, Calvin Schmaltz; Marti Nesland; Zach Nesland; Jason, Holli, Loralye, Emmajean, Lincoln, Mitchell

## **Transfer Outs – 2021**

Jarrold & Cadey Reisner and family, Richard & Mary Victor, Iler & Loleen Anderson, Kaia Murphy

## **Confirmands – 2021**

Lydia Paige Callahan, Halley Deitz, Molly DeWald, Ava Erpenbach, Emily Hauf, Lauren Knapp, Opal Nelson, Jenna Seime, Lillian Tuschen, Ayla Broderick, Madilyn Jacobsen, Katharina Kerkenbush, Elise Hannah Nopola, Emberlyn Toms, Sienna Grace Ramirez, Tyce Barclay, Braiden Blenner, Rowan Fredrickson, Parker Hoffman, Colton Jaques, Magnus Kleinschmidt, Joey Kuecker, Brady Michael Martin, Jhett Peterson

## **Weddings – 2021**

Dennis Schneider & Jodie Lemke, Christopher Bradshaw & Kiley Westergaard, Steven Blair & Kelsey Weber, Matthew Keel & Natasha Haugen, Austin Loftus & April Magnuson, Wyatt Wagner & Karen Witcraft, Richard St. Peter & Carrietta Schalesky, Eli Baden & Jaeden Rice, Derek Lothspeich & Sydney Owen

## **Baptisms – 2021**

Jonah Jay Aouliulitau Cook, Alvin Leonard Xavier Bunkowske, Miley Marie Watson, Mersea Sue Shreeve, Brooklyn Marie Myers, Ethan Ralph Holtquist, Jasper John Mason, Breckin Elliot Mason, Lennon Mae Olson, Adalyn Ann Prpich, Carter Michael Bekkedahl, Kennedy Eve Patosa, Tyler Cullen Jorgensen, Olivia Harper Ratliff, Clark Hayes Grahek, August Loey Rodriguez, Nelson Daniel Hibbs, Garrett Zane Smith, Tracen James Staedtler, Ellis Chase Willuweit, Avery Marilyn Warren, Quinn Marie Olivier, Astrid Margaret Gaul, Emalia Kathryn Jean Doerr, Bode Joel Doerr

## **Deaths - 2021**

Deane Goss, Inez Kuborn, Bergie Osterloo, Elry Hoefs, Cal Bisgaard, Merle White, Brent Sharkey, Ray Herron, Judy Olsen, Robert Bohne, Maurice Olsen, Wayne Piebenga, Margaret Starkey, Terry Johnson, Bradley Swenson, Terry Westergaard, Terry Pepper, Kenny Post, Ida Cass, Michael Hudgens, Jim LeMar



## ***2021 Calvary Lutheran Church Staff***

**Pastor David Piper...**Co-Pastor; **Pastor Becky Piper...**Co-Pastor; **Tom Martin...** Deacon, High School Youth Coordinator, Kin Ministry, Visitation; **Kathy Miller...** Business Manager; **Lee Ann Henry...**Office Manager; **James Jennings...**Custodian (through June 2021)...**Wayne Rosby & Jim Simons...**Part time Custodians; **Sonia Sykora...**3 year olds - 5th Grade Coordinator; **Hannah Fleming...**Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation Coordinator; **Kellie Meissner...** Family Ministries Coordinator, Web Site/Facebook Coordinator; **Al Spreizer...**Director of Music & Worship/Choir Director; **Jacqueline Spreizer...**Choir Accompanist; **Gayle Simons...** Children's Library Coordinator, **Deb Martin...** Wednesday Night Praise Band Coordinator; Wednesday School Music Director, Blue Grass Music Director; **April Loftus...**Wednesday School Music Accompanist; **Karla Mitzel...** Hospitality Coordinator; **Hannah Westergaard...**Faith in Action Coordinator; **Paul Lone Hill...** Custodian (September – December 2021); **Kirk Guymon...**Audio Visual Support; **Nathania Knight...**Staff Support

## ***2021 Church Council***

**Cheryl Chapman** – President; **Jeff Schleusener** – Vice President; **Kirsten Aasen** – Secretary; **Bill Eldridge**– Treasurer; **Jessica Gromer, Martin Kerkenbush, Troy Kilpatrick, Nancy May, Doug Thrash**



## A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth  
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

The last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic. Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may never have walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how vital they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities.

The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.

While we stay rooted in God’s enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings.

Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God’s steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

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

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”



# South Dakota Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

*“In the beginning was THE WORD, and THE WORD was with God, and THE WORD was God. ... THE WORD became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”*



Dear partners in ministry 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! – **Thank you** for your generosity to the ministry of the South Dakota Synod as we *journey together in Christ*. Because of your generosity and our ministry partners, hope and new life in Christ is cultivated in people and communities.

**You have made a difference in Susanne's<sup>1</sup> life.** Susanne faces daily challenges as she roams the streets of Sioux Falls as a person who is housing insecure. But because she connected with “Church on the Street” she now has a monthly worship to look forward to and a community to connect with as she hears the good news of Christ's love for her. On behalf of Susanne, **THANK YOU!**

**You have made a difference in Dillon's life.** Dillon grew up on the farm and a caring church family. After his high school graduation, he set out to attend college. While the first few days were new and exciting, the excitement soon wore off, and Dillon fell in a hole of anxiety and depression, wondering if he would make it. Then he remembered the speaker from Lutheran Campus Ministry that had visited his home church one Sunday and decided to look them up on campus. Dillon still goes to college, and while life at times can still be overwhelming, he now has a community which supports him and cares for him when he is away from home. On behalf of Dillon, **THANK YOU!**

**You have made a difference in Pedro's life.** Pedro lives in Nicaragua with his family. His family doesn't have much, but they survived by farming a small plot and sharing a small space they call home. All that changed when first a drought and then hurricanes devastated the little the family had. His parents would prepare the little food the family had for their children, but the family would go to bed hungry each night. But because of the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua's partnership with the South Dakota Synod and 'Helping Kids' Round First', Pedro and his family received meal kits that provided much-needed nourishment for the family. On behalf of Pedro, **THANK YOU!**

**You have made a difference in Tony's life.** Tony admits that he has made some bad choices and deserves to be incarcerated. But because of St Dysmas' weekly worship services at the State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls and the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, Tony has found new life in Christ. He hears weekly that his choices are not what defines him, but instead Christ's mercy is for him. On behalf of Tony, **THANK YOU!**

**You have made a difference in the life of the synod staff.** As we travel the state and work with you, we see the impact your generosity makes in people's lives. Every time THE WORD of TRUTH is proclaimed in the pulpit, washed over a person in the waters of baptism, and celebrated at the Lord's Table we give thanks for your faithfulness. Our gathering makes a difference, because when we gather God shows up. Your witness, you showing up, and your generosity make a difference in your neighbor's life as the community of Christ bears witness to the defeat of sin and death. On behalf of your synod staff, **THANK YOU!**

It is my sincere hope that your synod staff has made a difference in the life of your congregation as we strive to live our shared vision of journeying together in Christ. Please know that your synod staff is always happy to be in conversation with you. We are committed to show up – just let us know where, when, and why.

Looking forward to the continued journey,

Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

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<sup>1</sup> Names and stories are fictitious and altered to protect the individuals.

# 2021 MINISTRY CELEBRATION



One of the hymns we have found meaningful in our work on Synod staff is “The Canticle of the Turning.” The refrain throughout the song is that “the world is about to turn” through God’s work and presence. For many of us, it certainly felt like the world was turning quickly this year. Yet we have held fast to our vision of Journeying Together in Christ throughout it all.

**Here is a celebration of some of the ministry we shared together in 2021. Together, we:**

- A new start congregation, **Spirit of Hope, in Scotland, SD**, was formed and is quickly overflowing the house church used to startup.
- Partnered with the **McLaughlin Community Alliance Group**, a non-profit utilizing the building of Redeemer Lutheran Church for the empowerment of the community.
- Walked with the **27** people in various stages of **Candidacy** and 2 new entrance interviews scheduled in January 2022!
- Received **9 new first call candidates**.
- Completed **34 Ministry Site Studies**.
- **Filled 32 calls** as of November 2021!
- Ensured that nearly every congregation has a called pastor, interim pastor, Synod Authorized Minister, or lay leader to care for God’s people (thank you to all of you who are helping out with area congregations and filling in!)
- Distributed **\$107,838** through the **Seminary Debt Reduction Program**.
- Granted **\$80,500** in **scholarship funds** to seminary students.
- Received **\$78,000** in grants from ELCA Christian Community & Leadership.
- **10, \$1000 technology grants** were awarded to congregations in need of expanding the use of technology in ministry.
- Held a **virtual Synod Assembly**, where we found creative ways to conduct the business of the synod.
- Hosted **Spring** and **Fall Theological Conferences**, where we continued to support the continuing education of our Rostered Ministers either online or in-person.
- Invested in **FaithX**, a community mapping tool for congregations to see hard data about their neighborhoods and learn more about their neighbors.
- Supported many congregations and ministries through visits by synod staff, both digitally and in-person.
- Hosted Bishop Megan Rohrer from our sister synod, Sierra Pacific.
- Completed construction and began the use of the Wambli Ska Center, formerly planned as the Woyatan Retreat Center.
- Created **new synod staff** positions including a **Rural Ministry Liaison** to journey with our rural ministry sites.

**It is through our mutual support for one another, our prayers lifted up on behalf of our neighbor, our financial blessings that are given, and most importantly the love and relationships we have, that all this and much more is accomplished. God has called us to be the body of Christ together, and this is an active and healthy body!**

# NEIGHBORS IN SOLIDARITY SUPPORT CHALLENGE



The apostle Paul had many ministries; he started churches in new places, wrote letters and gave speeches, and asked churches to financially support other ministries to do their work. The Corinthians and Philipians are among those Paul specifically thanked for sharing gifts as a testimony to the genuineness of their love (2 Corinthians 8:8).

At the Synod Assembly this spring, I shared a challenge with each congregation. We have a network of support for several ministries in the Synod, called Neighbors in Solidarity. These are ministries with a specific goal or focus, and we invite each congregation to be in partnership with these ministries.

The challenge was that EACH congregation in the South Dakota Synod make it part of their budget to support the Neighbors in Solidarity network, AND at least one particular ministry in the network. The amount is not part of the request, as even a gift of a dollar can begin to build a relationship and support between a congregation and a Neighbors in Solidarity ministry. It is our hope that each congregation can share a gift as a testimony to the genuineness of your love for one another, following Paul's example.

## **The Neighbors in Solidarity network includes:**

- **Woyatan Lutheran Church, Rapid City**
- **Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center, Pine Ridge**
- **Church on the Street, Sioux Falls**
- **Pueblo de Dios, Sioux Falls**
- **First Lutheran African Ministry, Sioux Falls**
- **LuMin campus ministries, Spearfish, Rapid City, Aberdeen, Brookings, & Vermillion**
- **McLaughlin Community Alliance Group, McLaughlin**
- **Spirit of Hope, Scotland**

You can visit [sdsynod.org/neighbors](https://sdsynod.org/neighbors) to learn more about each of these sites, where the Gospel is proclaimed through word and deed, and our neighbors are loved and served.

Thank you for all of the support you have already shared with ministries, and for considering adding the network and a specific ministry to your budget.

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

*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](http://journeywithfaith.org)



**Adopted 2022 Mission Plan  
02/01/2022 - 01/31/2023**

	<b>Adopted 2022</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
<b>MISSION SUPPORT FROM CONGREGATIONS</b>	<b>1,852,981</b>
<b>Program Ministry Income</b>	
Pine Ridge Ministry Income	45,000
<b>Other Income Streams</b>	
SD Synod Mission Support	28,866
DEM Support Staff	10,000
Interest Income	10,000
SDS Transportation LLC Income	5,000
Misc Income	1,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,952,847</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
	<b>Adopted 2022</b>
<b>CHURCHWIDE MISSION</b>	
Mission Support to ELCA	833,842
% of Mission Support	45.0%
Region III	7,260
<b>SHARED MINISTRIES</b>	
<b>South Dakota Sustained Ministries</b>	
Campus Ministry	130,412
Campus Ministry Capital	1,030
Lutheran Planned Giving	58,300
Heartland Ephphatha	6,398
Youth Ministry	3,605
<b>South Dakota Supported Ministries</b>	
SD Ministries Support	12,990
Luther Seminary	73,957
Lutheran Social Services	73,957
Lutherans Outdoors	36,884
Church Colleges	6,398
Chapel in the Hills	1
Good Samaritan Society	1
<b>Total Shared Ministries</b>	<b>403,933</b>

**Adopted 2022 Mission Plan  
02/01/2022 - 01/31/2023**

<b>SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD MINISTRIES</b>	
<b>Staff Leadership</b>	
Bishop	96,123
Associate Director of Evangelical Mission	6,186
Associate Mobility/Candidacy	78,925
Bishop/Associate Benefits	84,838
SDS Travel	21,000
Bishop/Assistants Travel & Cont Ed	16,300
<b>Program Ministries</b>	
Native American Ministry	95,730
Synod Youth Gathering Coordinator	6,959
Companion Synod Coordinator	12,397
<b>Support Staff and Office</b>	
Support Staff Salaries/Benefits	159,736
Resource Center Supplies	300
Synod Office Expenses	66,885
Augustana University	20,887
<b>Synod Leadership</b>	
Synod Council	3,000
Support to Ministries Committee	2,100
Candidacy Committee	2,250
Electronic Communications	4,500
Multicultural Ministry Committee	1,550
Companion Synods Ministry Committee	200
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500
Mission Strategy Table	2,000
<b>Outreach Ministries</b>	
Multicultural Center/Woyatan	19,000
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000
<b>Contingency</b>	
	1,446
<b>Subtotal SD Synod Ministries</b>	<b>707,812</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,952,847</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>0</b>



Change and the need for creativity have become constants over the last year and a half in many aspects of life, including the church. This was the case for **Living Christ Lutheran Church** in Flagstaff, Ariz., even before a global pandemic caused many of us to rethink what it means to be church. Generosity from all three expressions of the ELCA (the churchwide organization, the Grand Canyon Synod and members of Living Christ) helped turn a congregation “on the road out of town, near the mall” into an online presence reaching over 500 people a week from Phoenix to the Philippines. (Read more about Living Christ in the current issue of “**Stories of Faith in Action**” at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://www.elca.org/SOFIA).)

Many other congregations have found new ways to connect both when in-person worship was impossible and when congregations began to return to their sanctuaries. Generosity, especially through Mission Support, helped us find and support these new ways of being connected. Early in the pandemic, ELCA Worship launched the “Worship in the Home” webpage, with Scripture, hymn links, prayers and reflections for each

Sunday. These resources were and continue to be used in congregations across the ELCA—even at **Sitka Lutheran Church** in Alaska, whose members printed and hand-delivered “Worship in the Home” resources to fellow members without internet access.

Change and creativity have taught us many things. As Pastor Sandra Rudd of Sitka Lutheran Church noted, “The pandemic was a stark illustration of the fact that the church is not a building. A lot of people say that, but we didn’t fully know it until we didn’t have a building to use. We learned that there are many ways to be connected as the church.” Throughout the pandemic, the ELCA has changed and adapted, doing ministry in new and creative ways, because of the generosity of its members. Even now, you may be gathering in a new way for your annual meeting, to discern how you will steward the gifts shared generously with your congregation to do ministry in your community and beyond. As you have these important conversations, remember that your gifts of time, talent and resources have helped create new spaces beyond our walls and buildings where we continue to worship, serve and love God and each other.

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021