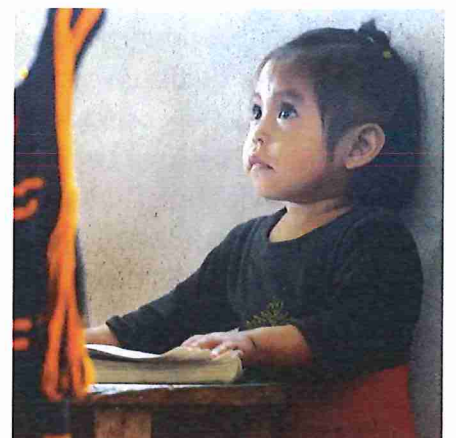
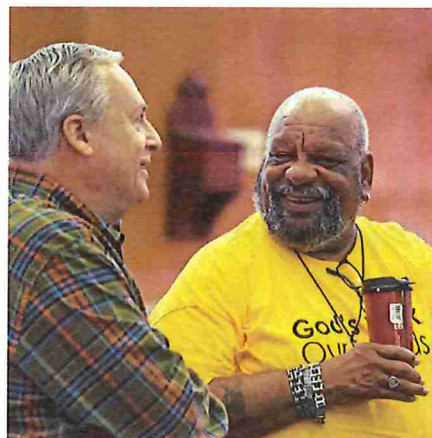
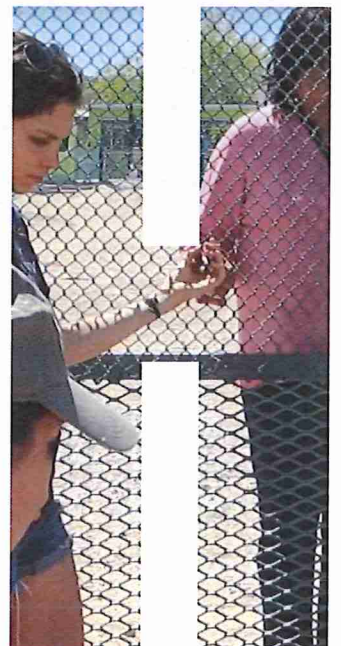
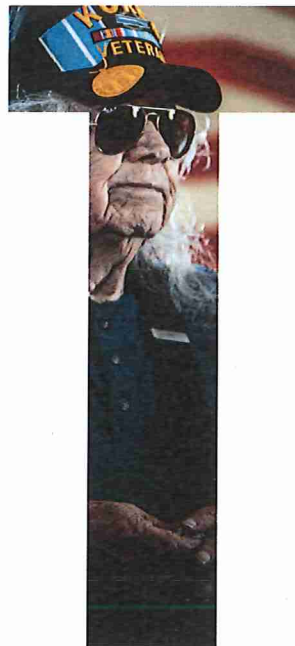
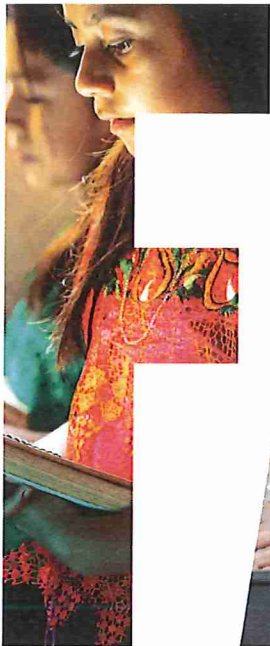




Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



ANNUAL REPORT

2019





A message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Dear friends in Christ,

Stepping out in faith can be difficult. Martin Luther did it in 1517. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America did it at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. This church can be bold and daring because of our scriptural and Lutheran confessional understandings. Is it easy?

No. Do we always get it right? Probably not. Where we are in error, may God correct us.

The cross is our center. Faith, grace and Scripture alone are our guides. We are church. We are compelled by the gospel and our understanding that in Christ we have been set free to love and serve the neighbor. This loving and serving of our neighbor alongside courageous and faithful leaders is what offers hope to congregations.

Over the past 18 months we have made significant strides in our work on congregational vitality. This church has multiplied its efforts and leveraged its resources to enhance vitality in congregations. Our vision continues to evolve around strengthening our relationships with God, each other and the neighbors we serve. In this way we are addressing both local and global issues by being present in our own community and proactive with issues in the broader church.

This presence is made possible in significant ways through your giving of time, talents and financial resources to our work together. The success of our recent campaign, *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, reflects the increasing

support for existing and new ministries that serve our communities here at home and others around the globe. Through regular, special and legacy gifts, \$250 million was given to support God's work. Through the spiritual practice of giving, we both acknowledge receiving God's gifts and share in God's generosity by passing on a portion to others. Together we are doing God's work in ways that we could not do otherwise.

As your congregation plans work for the coming year, I hope you will be both bold and daring, remembering God provides and desires abundant life for all. May you continue supporting God's work together with a spirit of solidarity, collaboration and generosity. We are all partners in the gospel, believing in Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.

Stepping out in faith together,

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

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" —2 Corinthians 5:17

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Our Father's Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 26th 2020

- Devotion & Opening Prayer
- Announcements
- Call to Order
- President's Remarks
- 2019 Highlights & Ministry Reports
- Approve 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Nomination Slate & Vote
- 2020 Budget & Vote
- Building Future & Vote
- Call Team Introduction
- Sending Prayer
- Adjourn

2019 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

2019 Our Father's Lutheran Church Congregational Annual Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 27, 2019 Fellowship Hall- 10:15 am

Welcome devotion and Opening Prayer: Led by Rachel Baccam

Call to order: 10:24 am by Council President, Anthony Wold, declaring a quorum was present.

Remarks of the President: Anthony Wold

The 2018 reflection, came together as a community of faith through all the changes.

Review the 2018 report. Council executive team helped connect with a retreat.

Change in pastoral to co-pastor, and co-leadership

2018 Highlights & Ministry Reports: Complete ministry reports included in annual report.

Highlights for visioning areas of our ministries.

Diane Mutterer- National Youth Gathering in Texas. God's Call, God's love, God's grace and God's hope. Jim Lapino- Shared about the Men's Group and Meals on Wheels. Prayer and fellowship. All are welcome Every third month OFLC helps deliver meals.

Pam Hendricks- Scout master- Shared about OFLC is a charter for- Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Adventuring crew.

Mary Ann- MOPS co-coordinator. Shared about Mother's group the meet within OFLC

Kerri Eberling- Sharing Veterans support thru the OFLC and women's group

Tammy Jarvi- Shared about the current music programs and new ideas for all ages.

Norie Siers- Shared about Tuesday morning Bible Study inviting all.

Approval of 2018 Congregational Annual Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Randy Eberling and seconded by Dan Schiller to Approve the 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes. Meeting minutes were approved by voice vote.

Nomination Slate: Anthony announced the uncontested slate of candidates

- Council Members at Large (3) Gail Swanson, Julie Vergin, Paul Bolstad
- Council President: Rick Fuglie
- Council Treasurer: Rachel Baccam
- Council Secretary: Diane Mutterer

Nominations from the floor include additional Members at Large (0):

Open a motion was made by Diane Dorrel and seconded by Norie Siers to accept by acclamation the slate of candidates nominated: approved unanimously by voice vote.

Final motion- Kathy Lunderby and Randy Eberling.

Pastor Melanie Lichtenberg- Spoke about OFLC transition period- Interim, seeking clarity

Transition Team- Prep for Call Committee and the future for the OFLC and inform council

Call Committee- Seeking pastoral candidates, interview, inform council

2018 Financial Review: Anthony Wold, prepared by Sarah Jones, OFLC Treasurer

- The General Operating fund concluded 2018 with an overall surplus of \$37,392

- The Mortgage fund concluded 2018 with a reserve of \$14,097.40, representing 5 months of mortgage payments.

- The total of all donations to the Operating Funds, Mortgage Fund and Dedicated Accounts was \$323,029.

- As of 12/31/2018, OFLC has a total cash balance of \$103,158 which consisted of the General Fund (\$37,392), Mortgage reserves (\$14,097), and Dedicated Funds (\$51,669).

-Anthony Wold: How are you blessed personally? How are we blessed as a community of faith? Countability partners. How do we give God the glory? Many teams to be able to get involved to help see the future of OFLC.

Rick (Richard) Fuglie- spoke about his willingness to be the President of OFLC.

Julie Vergin- Spoke about needing a Vice President for future nominees- If anyone else would like to join the Council and/or fill the Vice President role on council it can be voted at the next call meeting of the congregation.

Three people joined on-line during the annual meeting.

Approval of 2019 Proposed Budget and end of annual meeting:

A motion was made by Norie Siers and seconded by Barb Fuglie: To Approve the 2019 Proposed Budget. Approved unanimously by voice vote.

Closing prayer Anthony Wold

Our Father's Lutheran Church Annual Meeting closed at 12:45

2019 Annual Meeting Minutes by Council Secretary: Rachel Baccam

Dear Friends in Christ,

Frederick Buechner offers a definition of grace:

Grace is something you can never get but can only be given. There's no way to deserve it ... any more than you can deserve the taste of raspberries and cream or bring about your own birth. A good sleep is grace, and so are good dreams. Most tears are grace. The smell of rain is grace. Somebody loving you is grace.

I've thought about adding another thing to Buechner's list: A good congregation is grace. Being a part of a church you can call home -- that is grace. It is grace to hear God's word proclaimed, to be drawn into the mystery of God through worship, to be connected in community. It is within the church that our lives are transformed, that our brokenness is made whole. And, it is within the congregation that we are led and empowered to be the real presence of Christ -- in our neighborhoods and with our neighbors.

You are reading this report because you care about your congregation; you care in a way that prompts you to read your congregation's annual report and attend its annual meeting. Thank you.

The commitment to faithful and vital congregations is the highest priority of the Minneapolis Area Synod. Most of our time is spent supporting our 145 congregations and six mission starts:

- We work to accompany congregations in times of discernment or visioning, conflict resolution or problem solving, staff relationships and program development.
- We show up for anniversaries, installations, congregational meetings. We attend monthly conference meetings for pastors and deacons.

The synod's commitment to vital congregations is deeply related to its commitment to support leaders, both lay and ordained. This aligns with the ELCA's strategic foci of Vital Congregations and Leadership.

It is hard to imagine vital congregations without healthy and faithful leaders. Synod staff share this commitment, so:

- Our synod currently has 65 people preparing to be pastors and deacons; synod leaders meet with each of them about four times during their seminary years.
- We worked with 50 congregations in call processes last year. I visit each congregation once it has completed its ministry site profile. My colleagues meet with call committees much more often.
- We facilitate peer groups for support and prayer for everyone who works in a church -- not just pastors.
- We provide educational and training resources for congregations - especially for church councils and committee leaders - like the "Tool Kit" on February 22, highlighting topics like evangelism, stewardship and finances, how to lead productive meetings, maximizing the value of congregational real estate, church safety and emergency preparedness, and more.

- We provide pastoral care to the 700 rostered leaders in our synod, of whom half are retired. It is my great privilege to bring greeting from the larger church at funerals for our rostered leaders.

And we foster partnerships:


- among and between congregations,
- between ELCA congregations, the synod, the national church, and the wider faith community,
- with ecumenical and global partners, and
- with community organizations that share our mission objective and bring deeper and more sustainable health to our communities.

January marks the mid-point of my eighth year as your bishop. I am so grateful for this calling and honored to serve with you as partners in the Gospel. For most of my years as bishop, our Synod has been led by the vision statement:

*We work together so all experience gracious invitation
into life-giving Christian community,
and live in just and healthy neighborhoods.*

Yes, a good congregation is a gift of grace. May God bless you and your congregation and all the partners in our synod, that together we may discover new ways to share God's grace, build beloved community, and be the real presence of Christ -- in our neighborhoods and with our neighbors.

In Christ,



Bishop Ann Svennungsen

PASTOR'S REPORTS

FAREWELL LETTER FROM PASTOR MELANIE

November 17, 2019

Dear Friends and Families of Our Father's,

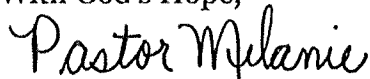
Thank you for the honor to be a part of the faith journey here at Our Father's Lutheran Church. Being your Interim Co-Pastor has been a blessing, as I enjoyed listening to you share your memories, passions for ministries, and hearing your dreams for future faith opportunities and experiences.

I have witnessed God's Light of Hope growing stronger here, especially during the variety of changes and new beginnings in the past year. You tackled maintenance and building projects. You not only embraced God's promise of "With God, all things are possible!" but you boldly live it. Your Mission Statement continues to guide and enlighten you with God's purpose. "Living Christ's love, we invite all to worship, learn, disciple, and serve."

I am grateful for everyone who shared their gifts in such a variety of ways. Especially, I thank all who faithfully worked on the Transition Team, the Building Exploratory Team, the Worship Design Team, and the Leadership Team. How wonderful to see Our Father's gain clarity in your identity, mission from God, and identify the needs of those in your neighborhoods. With the Lord's confidence and courage, you will, again and again, put your faith into action.

As my Interim Co-Pastor ministry call ends on November 27, I thank you for the privilege to be a part God's ministries here. I will pray for God's faith, hope and love to bless and keep you, strengthen and encourage you, now and forever.

With God's Hope,



Pastor Melanie Lichtenberg

"Oh! May the God of green hope
fill you up with joy, fill you up with peace,
so that your believing lives,
filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit,
will brim over with hope!"

Romans 15:13, The Message Translation

PASTOR REPORT FROM PASTOR CATHY

Dear Friends of Jesus,

As we look back on our life together, as a church in 2019, we have continued to hear "the go." The go of Christ calling us into action! After spending the past several years in discernment there has been call to move forward, to activate and mobilize our community of faith. We have hit some bumps in the road and navigated some detours; it is hard work moving forward into God's future for us. YOU are doing great!

God has called us to live out love in the world through our ministries and we have seen the importance of learning for all ages. We also know worship continues to grow in creative and diverse ways of praising God in this place. Equipping leaders is part of our strengths, whether we are in the middle of a detour or moving ahead, God calls leaders from this place to live out love in all kinds of beautiful ways.

There is a long history of feeding people at Our Father's; you might say it is part of our DNA. As we work towards expanding our kitchen to better serve and prepare food, our ministry has continued to grow. We were blessed to have a group from church-wide hunger initiative come out and hear more about our food ministry, Nourishing Hope. Folks from across the United States came and heard about what is happening in Rockford to end hunger. The monthly food drop and community meal continue to grow deeper connections with our community. As we look ahead in 2020 we welcome Jose and Kristy Flores into helping coordinate this exciting and vital ministry. They will be supporting what God is doing by growing our connections and love for our neighbors in this community and beyond.

Equipping leaders is something that OFLC has been building for the past decade. This includes dismantling of old systems that no longer brought life in order to prepare for what's next. We are an equipping congregation, where our ministries have been leveled and the hierarchy of church is gone, inviting all to participate and lead. This has been hard and purposeful work, as we saw through the interim ministry process and the many things accomplished in the past year. The past has helped us understand who we are and who we are not, we have made room for listening to all voices, to truly hear where God is leading us.

It has been hard work and I am so grateful for ALL of you persevering through this process. Thank you particularly to the leadership and transition teams who have guided us in the present season and have made ready our vision for the future. Let us use the knowledge gained from those difficult transitions to continue to grow us and become better equipped for the coming season.

It has been a hard year to be church. It has been the best year to be church.

May God continue to guide us into the future God has planned.

In Peace, Pastor Cathy

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Transition.

That's what we have been talking about for over a year now. Some would say we have been talking about it for a lot longer than that.

We are done talking....

This past year Our Father's has been a whirlwind of activity. We have set the course for calling a new Pastor. We have put together a path for renewing our space to support all the wonderful ministries we strive to nurture and grow. As a congregation we have dealt with uncertainty and change to keep moving forward in our quest to make this community a better place.

The leadership at Our Father's has been a Godsend to me. There were many times I asked God why he sent me into this quagmire of change. And every time someone stepped in – "What else can I do? What do you need? It will all work out." God doesn't always work in mysterious ways, sometimes it's not mysterious at all. It's called a leadership team because it truly is a team effort to work towards a common goal. That goal is the vision you all have expressed during our listening posts.

There is no way I can ever thank our dedicated volunteers enough. All you have to do is read through the ministry summaries to see how much our small church impacts this great community we live in. I take great pride in the fact that we are the church that welcomes anyone, that will provide for funerals, weddings, baptisms, or whatever is needed for folks that aren't members of our congregation.

My goal as Council President – our goal as the Leadership Team – is to continue the path to a Pastoral call. To continue the path to the building restoration. To continue the path of the shared vision as to what Our Father's Lutheran Church means to us and to the community of Rockford, MN.

Thank you,
Rick Fuglie

OUR FATHER'S MINISTRIES

FAITH STORY OF SARAH DAHL

When I was younger, I was afraid to listen to God because I thought He'd ask me to be a nun! To me at that time, it sounded terrible to "waste" your life just praying and serving a community. There were too many other things to do, I couldn't be "all in" to just one thing. So I happily ignored Him for decades.

About 7 years ago, I became curious about faith. My mom had been diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. She said something to the Hospice Chaplain that kept whispering to me, "I just want to know that my faith was enough." In the tradition in which I was raised, this question made sense to me... but beneath it all, I wondered if there was a way to live life walking in faith and knowing God. At the same time, I relapsed out of sobriety, spiraling into a broken shell with no hope.

And in stepped all the right people at all the right time. I wanted to know how to live a life of faith, not just having a set of beliefs or good deeds. I started meeting with Pastor Jon, attending AA, seeing a counselor, and our family started to attend OFLC. I didn't exactly mend all of the broken pieces back together, but rather discovered that in the broken gaps, God's love and the love of others could come in to be the salve on my broken heart. Once someone, like me, accepts the beautiful gift of healing through Our Savior, Jesus Christ, it's a miracle. Miracles don't just happen in the Bible, they are happening all the time if we stop to notice!

Well, let's fast forward a little. I love sharing the Gospel and Jesus' love with others. I keep trying to find more ways in which to do it, but it always feels like the margins of my life. I know I'm discipling my kids, running a MOPS group, and hosting an accountability group, but it's hard to remember God through the laundry and meals and finances and scheduling. I have been trying to accept that this is God's call for me, but underneath is this voice that wonders if there's more. What would it look like to be ALL IN for Jesus? What if I put Jesus first and filled in the gaps with the laundry and meals and finances and scheduling? God wouldn't ask me to put Him before my family and obligations, right?

I asked some more questions. What gives me great joy when I do it for the Lord? I love diving into Scripture and sharing insight. I love small groups and encouraging others to see themselves the way God does. I love sharing the Good News about God's love for us. And God nudged me – *this joy in Me is exactly where you need to be. You know, it's kind of like being a pastor.* So, I said "Yes" to God and started to find more ways in which to pursue these joys. As I sat with some friends and was listening to the awesome ways God has designed them, I wondered, "maybe I'm not meant to do some big, prestigious thing for God, maybe I'm just meant to lift up and encourage others to seek God". And God nudged me again, *"Yes! This is what a pastor does"*.

Oh boy! You know, people have been encouraging me in this direction for quite some time, but I didn't believe in myself. Well, truth be told, I didn't believe that God could possibly want me to shepherd His people. I didn't have enough faith in God. But, I kept pursuing God. I kept learning about Him, I read His word, I prayed for His people, I kept wondering and walking forward. And God blessed me with the faith to say "Yes, I will do what You ask". My faith isn't enough, but He is enough and more.

Because I'm not perfect, I negotiated with God. I told him I would apply to seminary and that he had to do the rest. Praise God, He is patient with me! He has interwoven many threads of my life to prepare me perfectly for the next step!

This fall, I will start the application and candidacy process for Luther Seminary's 2021 MDivX, which is an amazing new 2 year Master's of Divinity program. I cannot even begin to tell you how excited I am for the future where I say "Yes, Yes, Yes!" to being "all in" for Jesus. This congregation is a huge blessing and part of my call story and I ask that you hold me and my family in prayer.

Much love in Christ, Sarah Dahl

OFLC FOUNDATION REPORT

Our Father's Lutheran Church Foundation was started 20 years ago with the vision of helping OFLC fund certain programs. It has been kind of quiet the last few years. 2019 saw large gains through memorials and interest and the Foundation is now in a position to distribute some of the interest yearly to some of the programs. We have some idea that 2020 promises to be the biggest and best year ever for the foundation.

This is where you can help out. We are looking for a few OFLC members to be on the Foundation board. For a few conversations and meetings, 2020 can be very rewarding for you and the church!

For more information or if you are interested in being a Foundation member, contact Pastor Cathy 763-477-6300; Mark Nelson 612-562-7390 or Tom Lemmage 763-479-9362.

Submitted by,
Tom Lemmage
OFLC Foundation Treasurer

Our Father's Lutheran Church Foundation**2019 Annual Report****Sum of Checking and Investments 12 31 2019****\$63,085.67****Checking account activity:**

01 01 2019	Balance	\$2,714.72
	Receipts:	
	Gift	\$0.00
	Membership	\$0.00
	Memorials	\$3,700.00
	In Honor	\$0.00
	Amazon Smile	\$51.77
	Disbursements:	
	Safe Deposit Box	-35.00
	Service charge	<u>-1.25</u>
12 31 2019	Balance	\$6,430.24

Thrivent:	Moderate Allocation Fund A, Diverse Income Fund	
01 01 2019	Balance	\$30,117.23
	Interest	<u>\$5,120.11</u>
12 31 2019	Balance	\$35,237.34

Waddell & Reed:		
01 01 2019	Balance	\$30,253.72
	Interest	<u>\$6,263.30</u>
12 31 2019	Balance	\$36,517.02

Sum of checking and Investments 12 31 2019 **\$78,184.60**

2010 \$33,031.55	2011 \$34,966.00	2012 \$41,451.64	2013 \$48,034.62
2014 \$51,392.59	2015 \$52,407.33	2016 \$57,324.38	2017 \$65,803.65
2018 \$63,085.67	2019 \$78,184.60		

Tom Lemmage Treasurer
Our Father's Lutheran Church Foundation

VISITATION MINISTRY BY NORIE CHANDLER SIERS

Greetings friends in Christ,

I think this is my 5th year of being the Volunteer Pastoral Minister at Our Father's. I am grateful for the opportunity to use my gifts in service to my community. The arenas that I serve are both prayer and action. I assist with leading worship, conduct the Tuesday morning Bible Study, which follows our Centering Prayer Group. I also assist with welcoming the folks to our Nourishing Hope Ministry. We have had a monthly Widow/ Widowers meeting altho' that has been kind of limping the last couple of months. I do home communion visits to 3 or 4 folks usually Thursdays. And take part in our weekly Friday night meditation group. Sometimes I assist with leading funeral services. I find it particularly rewarding to be a part of our palm cross and prayer shawl ministry. All in all, it makes me deeply grateful for the blessing of good health so that I can continue to serve.

In closing I would like to share a quote from one of my favorite authors Joyce Rupp.

"Gracious God bless our community with hearts open to Your Holy Spirit that we might Live deeply with purpose, live freely with detachment, live wisely with humility, live justly with compassion, live lovingly with fidelity, live mindfully with awareness, live gratefully with generosity, live fully with enthusiasm."

And Ephesians 1:17-18. "I pray that the God of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints."

With deep gratitude and love for this generous community.

Norie Chandler Siers

PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

Paul's Letter to the Philippians, Chapter 4, verses 6-7, tells us "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Our Prayer Chain Ministry provides vital prayer support on behalf of those presenting their requests to God. In 2019 we had close to 200 prayer requests! This is quite amazing and proves how important this ministry is to Our Fathers.

All prayer requests, whether they are prayers for healing, comfort, support, hope, thanksgiving or praise, are confidential and are e-mailed or phoned directly to Shirley Bolstad, our prayer chain lead, or given to Pastor Cathy or the OFLC office, who in turn pass them on to Shirley to forward them on to our prayer warriors by e-mail or by phone. No matter what the situation is...such as an accident, a health emergency, a long-term illness, hospitalization, a birth in the family, the death of a loved one or dear friend... we will be with you in prayer.

We were blessed to have 65 prayer warriors in this ministry in 2019. We would love to have even more prayer warriors join our ministry in 2020. You can join our e-mail chain, or if you prefer, the telephone chain. If this is something that you feel you would like to do, please contact Pastor Cathy or Shirley Bolstad.

Shirley's contact information: pbolstad@aol.com or Tel: 763-478-9480.

Have a Blessed and Meaningful New Year!
Shirley Bolstad

WOMEN'S MINISTRY BY DIANE DORREL

Women's Retreat

This year's retreat was held at the Vinland Center in Loretto. Our Co -Facilitators were Cathy Jones and Kerri Eberling. We had a great time studying and learning together. It's so spiritual to receive communion together at the retreat. The event requires a number of other support roles and we always have plenty of disciples to assist. In addition to the camp rental, part of the attendees' fees and supplies are paid for by Women's Ministry.

Lefse Making

For the first time ever we postponed our Lefse Making weekend one week because of the loss of our wonderful member, Barb Strehlow's funeral. We gathered on November 29th with 10 volunteers to prepare 80 pounds of lefse dough and on November 30th 14 volunteers made 424 pieces of Lefse to sell at our annual cookie walk. This year we were blessed to also have 5 young volunteers to help with the adding of the flour to the dough and helping flip the lefse on the grills. The best part of this event is the fellowship and sharing of family history and tradition. I'd also like to note that while we were peeling the potatoes, we found 4 heart-shaped potatoes which I believe represented 4 dear hearts that weren't here to be with us this year (Marge Parsons, Shirley Enger, Barb Strehlow and Bev Aslakson). We miss them all!!

Cookie Walk & Silent Auction

On December 7th, we held our 31st Annual Cookie Walk/Silent Auction/Craft Sale. This event is part of the day long "Crow River Christmas" community celebration. We had another successful event with people lining up an hour before the sale began. This was due to good advertising and the reputation this event has built over the years because of the many church and community members who donate baked cookies, silent auction items and time. A beautiful quilt, made and donated by Gail Swanson, was raffled off. We sold 97 packages of Lefse, 126 sloppy jo lunches and many pounds of delicious treats. We were blessed with many cookies and other baked goods, we still did very well and raised over \$3,500. Our vendor count was down a little this year. The proceeds from this event have supported OFLC ministries and the surrounding community (ie, Mothers of Preschool Students (MOPS), Vacation Bible School, National Youth Gathering (NYG), money toward the new kitchen, Women's bible study Gather magazine, Women's Retreat, WELCA and its events, Riverworks Food Shelf and Thrift Store, The Nest (single mothers) and the Crow River Christmas community event.) (Note: Diane Dorrel and Jim and Barb Strehlow received "Thrivent Action Team Grants" of \$250 each to cover the expenses of this project.)

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Some retrospect on building and grounds from the last year. We as a congregation decided that support for this mission was crucial to the success and vision for a safe, clean and welcoming environment for all who enter this godly space! We hope this lightens the burden of our leadership team to have more time to work on managing the bigger scope of things.

We first would like to thank everyone for being patient with our support. We have some things we can definitely improve on and will.

2019 was a challenge for all of us but we did get a lot done as listed.

- Established a cleaning crew by volunteers.
- Created an ordering system for consumables
- Installed a security camera with future improvements
- Cleaned the carpets and have a backup cleaning service available
- Exposure to critters that will be addressed in more of a permanent solution.

There are more things to list but what is more important is to list the people who make this happen.

A huge Thank You to Jim Lupino and John Blodgett for taking over the custodial duties. We should all personally thank them for this enormous stewardship of this sacred place. This is a selfless act that they refuse to be compensated for. Thank You!!

Laurie Jenson and others for beautifying with the summer floral arraignments

One more item is to thank our building and grounds members. Thank you for your dedication.

Ken Lunderby

Paul Mutterer

Eric Dahl

Mike Thomas

Jim Lupino

John and Korky Blodgett

Anthony Wold (executive liaison)

Looking ahead to 2020 looks very exciting for all of us with the proposed building improvements and Pastoral search. We are in a good place!

Gods Blessings and Peace, John Gilb

EDUCATION REPORTS

Confirmation 2019

Engage and Confirm 2019 - 2020 is every Wednesday evening. The schedule starts at 6:00pm with a shared meal and fellowship, large group at 6:30pm to present the lesson for the evening followed by small group for more in-depth discussion. Wednesday evenings are wrapped up with worship at 7:30pm. The students are active participants in the worship service doing the readings and helping to serve communion. Our worship planning team is Tammy Jarvi, Brian Walton, Norie Siers and Pastor Cathy. Everyone is invited to share worship with the students. Engage and Confirm theme this year is around the sacraments and walking with Jesus. We have 55 registered students this year. These students have a wonderful set of adults supporting their faith journey through confirmation years. The mentors are Jim Lupino, Amy Krcil, Pam Hoekstra, Michelle Andrew, Sharon Thomas, Nancy Boeve, Brenda Ruth, Laurin Ruth and David Kosfeld. We also have Norie Siers at the welcoming table, Jan Kintner and Michael Thomas as kitchen and support team as well as Pastor Cathy leading/planning our lessons.

Seven students celebrated their first communion. Twelve students participated in their Affirmation of Baptism on October 27, 2019. The confirmands are Ella Andrew, Jayden Dobozenski, Carter Edwards, Kyra Erickson, Max Hudlow, Ainsley Nuytten, Gentry Nuytten, Nolan Perry, and Keaton Reed. Each confirmand presented their statement of faith earlier in the month. The students did a great job of presenting their faith journeys for the congregation.

Next year will be another exciting year as we participate in a retreat at Gustavus and begin planning for the National Youth Group in 2021.
Respectfully submitted,
Diane Mutterer

SUNDAY SCHOOL

2019

Disclosure: This annual report encompasses the months in which Lindsey Bervig held the position of Sunday School Coordinator (June 2019- December 2019)

- Number of Students enrolled in Sunday School for 2019-2020 School Year: 22
- Notable activities/events are highlighted below
- NOTE: A lesson from the Spark™ Classroom Curriculum is taught each Sunday there is not a Large Group Activity planned

June-August 2019	<p>Monthly planning meetings held to discuss structure of upcoming Sunday School year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings included coordinator, Sunday School teacher volunteers, Diane Mutterer, and Pastors Cathy and Melanie • Decision made to hold Sunday School DURING the 9:00am church service • Decision made to continue with Spark™ Classroom Curriculum for one more year
September 2019	<p>9-9-2019: Sunday School Registration Table arranged for Rally Sunday</p> <p>9-22-2019: Official start of Sunday School classes</p> <p>9-29-2019: Sunday School students play bells during church service</p>
October 2019	<p>10-6-2019: 3rd Grade Sunday School students receive their Bibles during church service</p> <p>10-13-2019: Sunday School students sing during church service</p> <p>10-20-2019: Large Group Activity to decorate Christmas cards and enjoy continental breakfast</p> <p>10-27-2019: Sunday School students play bells during church service</p>
November 2019	<p>11-10-2019: Sunday School students pack 27 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child with donations from congregation</p> <p>11-17-2019: Sunday School students play bells during church service/Practice for Christmas Program begins</p> <p>11-24-2019: Sunday School students sing during church service</p>
December 2019	<p>12-15-2019: Sunday School students perform "Sing A Song of Christmas" during church service</p>

Contact Information

Sunday School Coordinator Sunday School Volunteers

Lindsey Bervig Preschool: Rachel Reed, Jayden & Peyton Doboszenski

Phone: (612) 695-3508 Kindergarten: Kristen Doboszenski, Lynne Greseth

Email: john6235@umn.edu First/Second Grade: Gail Swanson Third/Fourth Grade: Dan Reed

MUSIC MINISTRY BY TAMMY JARVI

2019 has been an interesting year of loss, transition, change and growth!

We experienced loss in the resignation of our choir director, Amber Stefan, the loss of some full-time bell ringers and the loss of some of our church and music family members.

Consequently, we experienced transition in this time of great loss and have moved into a new vision of invitation into Music Ministry that aligns with our Mission Statement resulting in a standing open invitation for anyone interested in participating in Music Ministry to be welcomed and encouraged.

We have experienced changes resulting from the invitations we have extended to all:

- New voices and ringers have joined our choir
- Sunday School kids have shared their gifts of song and bell ringing during worship services
- Several youth and a few adults have shared their gifts of music playing instruments during worship services
- There was a return of the summer Music Camp offered to our community
- Drama was added to our Christmas Cantata
- Current and former choir members came together and provided beautiful music for Barb Strehlow's funeral
- Music Ministry groups participated in serving Lenten soup suppers
- Brian Walton has shared his gift of music video presentation during worship services
- A unique connection with fellow musicians at the Presbyterian Church who had no active Music Ministry has developed, allowing them opportunity to share their gifts of music at Our Father's as well as our musicians to share their gifts at the Presbyterian Church
- We extended an invitation to everyone to share their special Song of the Day music selections during Advent (and beyond) giving testimony of the ways that God uses music to connect, encourage and heal us all

It is my hope and prayer that we will continue to build on this growth in Music Ministry over the coming years. There is also much yet to be realized in the Music Ministry vision that God continues to place on my heart which includes a variety of music concerts, year-round music participation during worship services, a large increase in participation by our youth in music and music dramas, and continued growth in all aspects of Music Ministry. There is so much talent among us that has yet to be shared! Let us offer up our gifts to God in thanksgiving and share them with one another as He calls us to do.

"Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything." Ephesians 5:19-20

Tammy Jarvi Music Director

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

GLOBAL MISSION OUTREACH

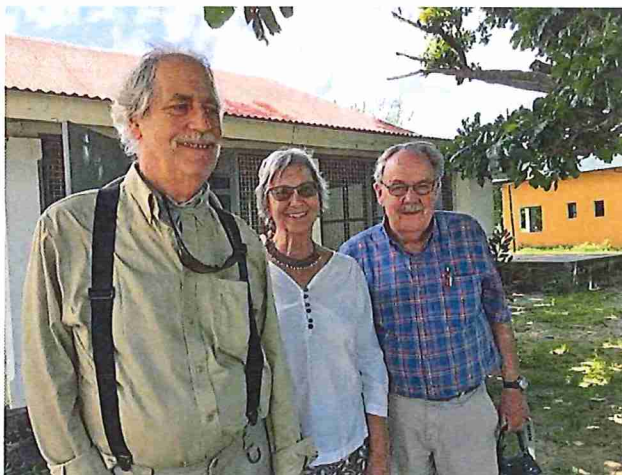
A special kind of Mission Trip

In 2019 ***Shirley and Paul Bolstad*** organized a multi-generational “reconnection trip” to one of the oldest mission fields in the history of Lutheran missions. The mission field was Tanganyika/Tanzania, where Lutherans have been active since the 1890's.

The purpose was for a certain family to reconnect with an area of the world where prior family members had been Lutheran missionaries in the immediate post-WWII era. The purpose was to observe the current activities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) and how it has grown into one of the ***largest national Lutheran churches in the world.***

A further purpose was to honor the service of those family members to the people of Tanganyika (before it became Tanzania) ...as part of a great number of Lutheran missionaries from many lands some 60 years ago.

In addition to the family members of a certain John Bengtson, there were others the group who had connections to missionary service in Tanzania... from the fifties and sixties and even into the seventies. We were able to visit educational, medical and social service institutions sponsored by the ELCT and we came away with a new understanding of the many ways that Lutherans are leading in education, medical and congregational life and service to the citizens of Tanzania. We saw all of this as the fruit of the seeds planted by Lutheran missionaries more than 120 years ago...



John Bengtson, Ruth Ellis and Paul Bolstad in front of the school they attended in the 1950's...



The dining hall and dormitory of the boarding school...which is now converted into a Bible School for Tanzanians.

REPORTS FROM GAIL SWANSON

Quilting/Sewing Ministry

The Quilting/Sewing group has had a busy year. Despite meeting only 9 months of the year, we've completed 8 quilts for Vinland Treatment Center, and a quilted holiday throw for the silent auction in December. All that, and it never feels like work! As with the church as a whole, we each bring our gifts to the table. Some enjoy planning and cutting; others do machine stitching. Some get the quilts sandwiched and tied, and others do the binding. The results are beautiful and useful expressions of warmth and caring.

In addition to quilts, we are working on embroidered baptismal cloths and prayer pillows for our youngest worshipers.

Come if you have an interest in learning or sharing your sewing gifts. All skill levels are welcome. We are also accepting cotton fabric you may have lying around. Most of our quilts are made entirely of donated fabrics.

Riverworks Thrift Store Volunteers

There's a great opportunity for local volunteer work right in our community. The Riverworks Thrift Store receives mounds of good, usable items. Proceeds from the resale of these items goes to support the Riverworks Food Shelf and other Riverworks programming to strengthen our community. However, it takes lots of hands to sort, tag and hang, or display all of these donated items. And that's where we come in. The first and third Thursdays of each month we have a number of volunteers who meet at the store and assist with whatever is needed at the moment. We work under the direction of in-the-know staff, so it's easy to feel useful almost immediately. Join us for some active conversation and a chance to see how our donated items are used to benefit local and not-so-local (think Haiti) individuals.

Riverworks Food Shelf

OFLC has committed to staffing the Riverworks Food Shelf on the 5th Monday of the month. While this does not occur regularly, it does happen several times per year. With just a little training it's easy to assist shoppers as they navigate aisles and choose from the canned goods, fresh produce, baked good, and dairy cases. The Food Shelf went through a wonderful face lift this year, so if you haven't seen it lately, you're in for a surprise.

Let me know if you are interested in helping out a few hours on an occasional Monday evening. It's a great way to become involved in your community.

VIA DE CRISTO

On the weekends of March 28th-31st and April 4th-7th, OFLC was the host church for a men's and women's Via de Cristo weekend. Via de Cristo is a highly structured three-day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and bring them to a new awareness of living in God's grace.

The weekends are lay led, and by God's grace and guidance, they ran smoothly and were a great success! Using the full building, the Via de Cristo team was able to operate their weekend schedule while overlapping with current ministries in a seamless usage of shared space.

Each weekend had approximately 44 workers and 11 participants. With much coordination, the building was transformed to be able to provide sleeping quarters, worship area, eating area, and learning space. Thank you to all who helped step in to get our space prepped for the weekends and for the congregation, as a whole, for letting this ministry use our facilities!

God loves you and so do We!

Anthony & Denise Wold

The Men's Group at OLFC

For some years now, a group of men from Our Fathers has met every first and third Saturday morning at 7.30 am. We often take a look at the text for the coming Sunday from the Revised Common Lectionary and read it for insight into our lives. We also have a very free and open agenda that encourages any of the men to bring up issues and concerns they have in their lives that they choose to share, in confidence, with other men of the Lutheran persuasion; many interesting discussions have followed from that opening.



We also plan service projects and our current project is a used vehicle that one of our members has donated and another member is reconditioning so that it can be donated, in good running condition and with *new* tires (donated by Westside Tire in Corcoran), to a needy family designated by our pastoral staff. Our group is funding the cost of parts with help from some special offerings collected at Our Fathers...

We do also plan an annual weekend retreat that includes a full Saturday plus the Friday night before. Topics in the past have been: the life and times of Martin Luther... upon the 100th anniversary of the posting of the 95 theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. Others have been: the life and witness of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran pastor who became a martyr because of his active opposition to the Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler. Our 2020 retreat will be held the last weekend of February. We invite any of our men in the congregation to join us in this annual event for good food and fellowship. The cost is approximately \$70 and there may be some funds available through the pastor staff for any who cannot afford this amount.



We invite all men of our congregation to join us in our fellowship every other Saturday morning and to maybe bring a guest from outside our congregation too...for coffee and donuts (usually!).

NOURISHING HOPE

We continue to create connections in the community to feed the whole person: body, mind and spirit.

We continue to seek to ease food insecurity by offering fresh produce and staples to all who come to our door.

Since our inception in July of 2018 the food drop has served over 5000 individuals, which equates to well over 100,000 meals. We have expanded to serve a community meal, offer winter clothing, handmade blankets, flu shots, heating assistance information, SNAP enrollment assistance and fire safety information. The local boy scouts, girl scouts, Presbyterian church, Engage & Confirm students as well as other community members have joined in serving together. We have had the blessing of praying with folks, encouraging friends to bring food to senior apartments and the homebound, sharing our surplus with community centers and other food pantries. We continue to invite others to live out God's love in this corner of creation.

BEDDING MINISTRY

Our Father's, as part of Love in the Name of Christ, continues to receive bedding and linens requests for our neighbors. We have filled 27 requests this past year, which is similar to last year. One neighbor is blind and hard of hearing, and her son helped us to connect, saying she had no sheets left, among other needed items. Another Mom with three children had just moved due to hail damage including to the roof and had lost many of their things. We are honored to meet them and do what we can. Many neighbors we serve are also involved in "a hand up" through classes such as budgeting and life skills.

Please continue to pray that our bedding ministry can be the hands and feet of Christ.

We moved our bedding supplies to our new Community Resource Room, a much nicer and cleaner space, and we started partial use of space saver bags. Our donations from the Delano office are more limited this year by changes in that office's difficulties with outlets for extra unneeded items.

We are thankful for many blessings this year:

For all of the generous donations you gave during the year

For 25 more pillows we received from the My Pillow company

We heard from a few additional members who can offer some help with bedding

For Lynne Greseth, who usually sorts and picks up donations from Delano, washes selected items, and makes many visits to neighbors

If you would like to join in and help, even if only occasionally, let Lynne or Laurie know. Also, there are many opportunities to get involved at Love INC in Delano or in Howard Lake. Watch Gather and Serve for details.

John 15:12 *This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

Submitted by Laurie Hanson

OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

MOPS/MOPPETS

Our Mother of Preschoolers Group has had an amazing fall! We have dived into the topics of how to use/create boundaries with technology in our homes, how to build friendships with other mamas, and how to be there for one another when a mama and her family is going through a crisis. As we took time to share about grief in our group, we also put together a craft that we were able to take home that day! We are very thankful for our group and the ability to have a space to connect with one another, while also creating a space to talk about Jesus and what He has done for us!

BOY SCOUTS

Our Father's Lutheran Church serves as the chartering organization for several groups within the Boy Scouts of America. Cub Scout Pack 490 is a family pack that provides programming for youth (boys and girls) in kindergarten through fifth grade. The cubs participate in fun events such as the pinewood derby, their graduation camp in the spring, and this year they attended "Spooky-ree" in the fall. The cubs also participated in Crow River Serve Day and the Rockford River Days parade. In February 2020, Pack 490 will be "crossing over" Arrow of Light scouts that includes our first two girls making the transition in the Rockford area. Troop 490, also known as Scouts BSA, provides programming for youth in their second half of fifth grade through age 18. Our Father's has chartered a troop for boys for many years and this year will be chartering Rockford's first troop for girls. Boys and girls will have separate troops and scout leadership but share one troop committee. Girls will begin their meetings in February.

In 2019, the boys participated in a number of service events such as: Nourishing Hope (during odd numbered months); leading a non-denominational service for Scout Sunday; the Rockford/Greenfield Community Expo; Rockford Lions Greenback Dinner; Hanover Lions Smelt

Fry and Pancake Breakfast; Crow River Serve Day; Rockford River Days Corn Booth and Parade; Riverworks Steak Fry; and setting up trees for Crow River Christmas. In addition to camping at Many Point, the scouts had fun outings such as skiing at Buck Hill, sledding, completing the Hiking merit badge, enjoying the rides at Valley Scare, and holding a troop overnight at the church. Our Father's also charters Crew 490 for youth ages 14-21. Each crew selects an area of interest for high adventure and our crew focuses on camping. They are in the midst of planning a trip to a scout camp in Switzerland in late summer/early fall of 2020.

Sincerely,
Pam Hoekstra

GIRL SCOUTS

The Rockford Girl Scouts utilizes the church for several different events/meetings throughout the year. These events include:

- The Service Unit leaders meet once a month to plan events for the year.
- The Service Unit hosts several events throughout the year including Recruitment, a Cookie Rally and World Thinking Day that are usually in the large education room.
- The Service Unit also hosts Girl Scout Sunday and has scouts come help with the service as well as hosting a breakfast with the proceeds given to an event at church. Last year (2019) we donated the funds to the food drop.
- Several troops meet throughout the year in various rooms throughout the church.
- My troop personally meets every other Tuesday in the large education room and on the opposite Tuesday, our leaders meet in the conference room.
- We had a group of about 40 scouts get together in November to work on a Space badge in the large education room.
- Scouts also help bi-monthly at the Food Drop for community service.

Nicky Lunderby
Rockford Girl Scouts Service Unit Manager
Junior Troop 17936 Leader

TOPS

TOPS (Take off pounds sensibly) is a low-cost weight loss/maintenance support group. It is an international organization that has groups all over. Our group meets in Rockford on Thursday nights at Our Father's Lutheran Church. Weigh in takes place between 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm. The meeting starts at 7:00. We are a fun group of both men & women. Kids age 7 and up are also welcome. We have educational programs, games, contests and laughs. Our dues are \$5 per month but there are ways to earn money toward them.

The cost to join TOPS is \$32 for the year. This includes a bi-monthly magazine. Any questions about the Rockford chapter please call Lori at 612-282-4447 or feel free to come to a free meeting and check us out!

Check out TOPS.org for more info.

Ruth
CoolRuthie@msn.com

Statistical Attendance Report

Number of Baptisms – 13,

Number of Memorials/Funerals – 7

Number of Weddings - 0

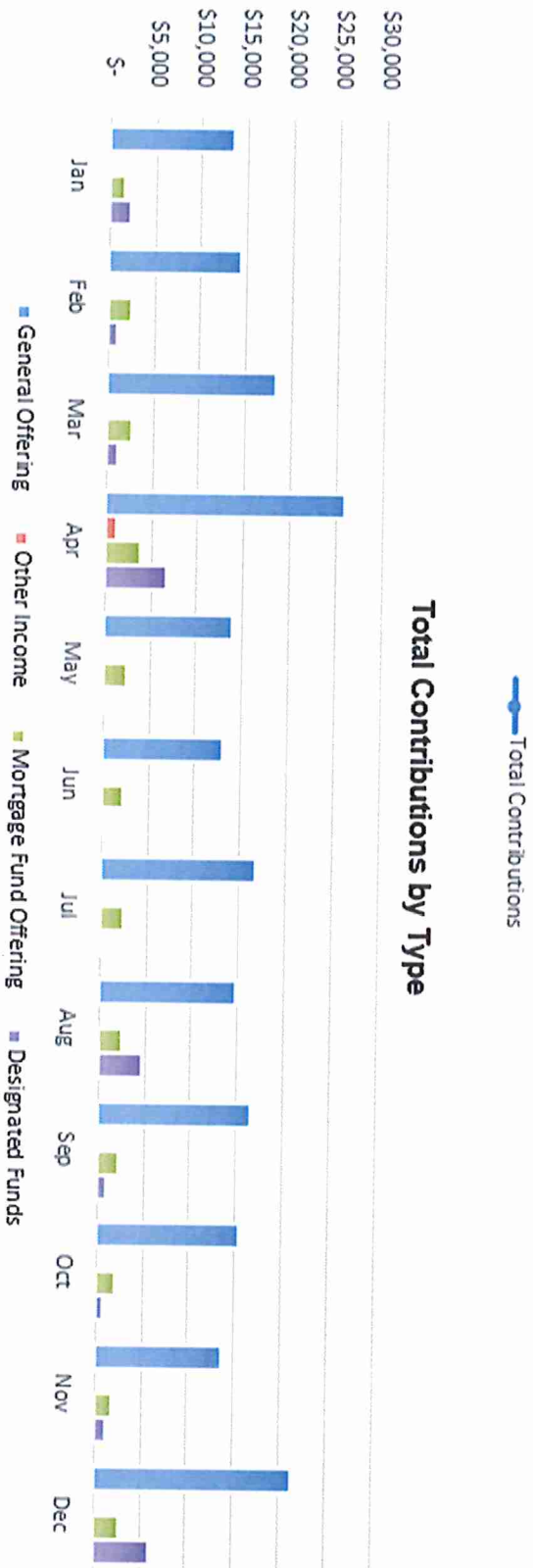
Sundays Worship (Sept – May): 70 ave.
(June – Aug): 47 ave.

Engage Worship
Saturdays (Sept – May): 7 ave.
Wednesdays (June – Aug): 10 ave.

Wednesdays Worship (Sept – May) 59 ave.

2020 BUDGET PLANNING			
INCOME	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Proposed Budget
<i>General Fund Offering</i>	\$277,500	\$192,434	\$246,000
<i>Restricted Use Offering</i>	\$47,000	\$32,936	\$40,000
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	\$31,838	\$30,864	\$31,838
<i>Interest Income</i>	\$0	\$0	\$500
<i>Other Income</i>	\$12,500	\$2,512	\$4,000
Total Income	\$368,838	\$258,746	\$322,338
CLASS	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Proposed Budget
<i>Benevolence</i>	\$19,600	\$6,583	\$23,155
<i>Building Mortgage</i>	\$31,838	\$31,838	\$31,838
<i>Building Use</i>	\$30,000	\$31,389	\$26,200
<i>Education</i>	\$4,600	\$1,253	\$4,300
<i>Evangelism</i>	\$750	\$281	\$400
<i>Fellowship</i>	\$1,900	\$657	\$2,500
<i>Gen. Administration</i>	\$31,025	\$33,353	\$34,175
<i>Imagination Grant</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Men's Ministry</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Music</i>	\$750	\$719	\$500
<i>Nourishing Hope</i>	\$0	\$8,190	\$0
<i>Salaries & Benefits</i>	\$188,044	\$160,935	\$181,204
<i>Seminary Scholarship</i>	\$4,000	\$1,665	\$4,000
<i>Social Concerns</i>	\$1,000	\$110	\$500
<i>Stewardship</i>	\$200	\$179	\$10,160
<i>Women's Ministry</i>	\$200	\$345	\$200
<i>Worship</i>	\$1,950	\$1,103	\$1,150
<i>Youth Ministry</i>	\$1,500	\$305	\$1,500
Total Expenses	\$317,357	\$278,906	\$321,782
<i>Income-Expenses</i>	<i>\$51,481</i>	<i>-\$20,160</i>	<i>\$556</i>

Total Contributions by Type



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
General Offering	\$13,389	\$14,258	\$18,186	\$25,944	\$13,993	\$13,123	\$16,688	\$14,891	\$16,592	\$15,444	\$13,737	\$21,269
Other Income	\$166	\$170	\$386	\$1,392	\$452	\$140	\$176	\$-	\$80	\$-	\$-	\$2,712
Mortgage Fund Offering	\$1,832	\$2,503	\$2,706	\$3,817	\$2,651	\$2,438	\$2,635	\$2,602	\$2,300	\$2,128	\$2,000	\$5,996
Designated Funds	\$2,348	\$1,134	\$1,307	\$6,657	\$384	\$100	\$75	\$4,848	\$965	\$946	\$1,303	\$29,977
Total Contributions	\$17,734	\$18,064	\$22,585	\$37,810	\$17,479	\$15,801	\$19,574	\$22,340	\$19,937	\$18,518	\$17,040	\$29,977

Month End Year to Date Mortgage Fund Report

MONTH	Mortgage Fund Offering	Mortgage Expense	Difference	Principal Pd. Down	Mortgage Interest Paid	Mortgage Balance	Restricted Use Balance
December 2018	\$ 2,473.00	\$ 2,653.17	(\$180.17)	\$ 1,210.10	\$ 1,443.07	\$ 395,812.23	\$ 14,097.40
January	\$ 1,832.00	\$ 2,653.17	(\$821.17)	\$ 1,258.20	\$ 1,394.97	\$ 394,602.13	\$ 13,276.23
February	\$ 2,503.00	\$ 2,653.17	(\$150.17)	\$ 1,214.52	\$ 1,438.65	\$ 393,387.61	\$ 13,126.06
March	\$ 2,706.00	\$ 2,653.17	\$52.83	\$ 1,314.56	\$ 1,338.61	\$ 392,073.05	\$ 13,178.89
April	\$ 3,817.00	\$ 2,653.17	\$1,163.83	\$ 1,176.08	\$ 1,477.09	\$ 392,073.05	\$ 14,342.72
May	\$ 2,650.50	\$ 2,653.17	(\$2.67)	\$ 1,228.03	\$ 1,425.14	\$ 390,896.97	\$ 14,340.05
June	\$ 2,438.00	\$ 2,653.17	(\$215.17)	\$ 1,090.43	\$ 1,562.74	\$ 388,578.51	\$ 14,124.88
July	\$ 2,635.00	\$ 2,653.17	(\$18.17)	\$ 1,330.93	\$ 1,322.24	\$ 387,247.58	\$ 14,106.71
August	\$ 2,601.50	\$ 2,653.17	(\$51.67)	\$ 1,194.27	\$ 1,458.90	\$ 386,053.31	\$ 14,055.04
September	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,653.17	(\$353.17)	\$ 1,104.93	\$ 1,548.24	\$ 384,948.38	\$ 13,701.87
October	\$ 2,128.00	\$ 2,653.17	(\$525.17)	\$ 1,343.28	\$ 1,309.89	\$ 383,605.10	\$ 13,176.70
November	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,653.17	(\$653.17)	\$ 1,207.99	\$ 1,445.18	\$ 382,397.11	\$ 12,523.53
December	\$ 2,712.00	\$ 2,653.17	\$58.83	\$ 1,212.54	\$ 1,440.63	\$ 381,184.57	\$ 12,582.36
2019 TOTALS	\$ 32,796.00	\$ 34,491.21	(\$1,695.21)	\$15,885.86	\$18,605.35	\$ 381,184.57	\$ 12,582.36

Current Rate 4.375%
 Current Amortization 25 years
 Maturity of Loan November 2021

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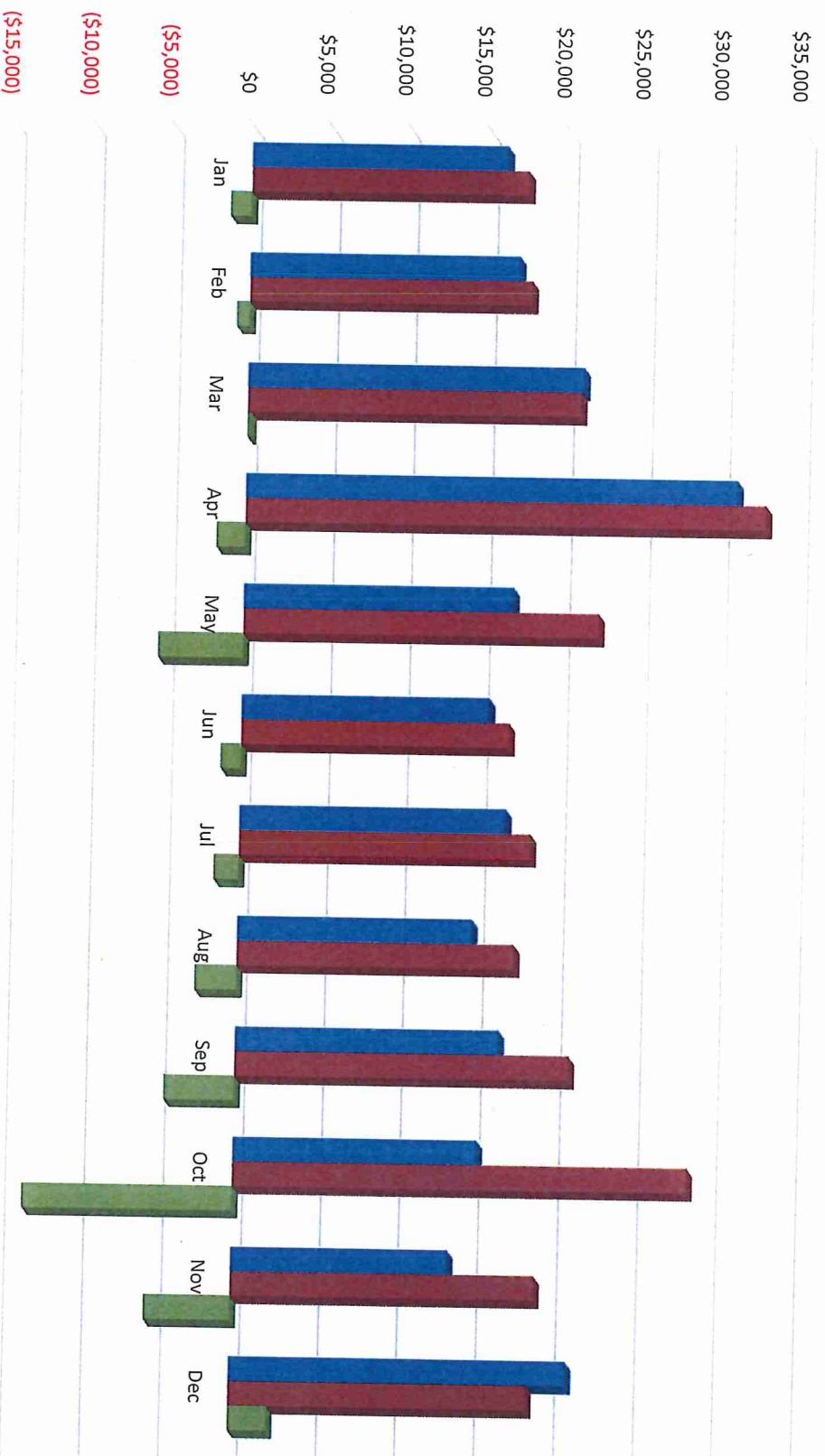
2020 OFLC General Operating Fund Budget and Restricted (dedicated) Funds

Budget Narrative

	<u>2020 Proposed Budgeted</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>
<u>Benevolence</u>	\$23,155	\$0
Contributions to: Monthly- Minneapolis ELCA Synod Compensation (5% of the General Fund Donations, Rockford Riverworks (1% of the General fund) Love Inc \$50		
<u>Building Mortgage</u>	\$31,838	\$12,582 (reserve)
Keeps track of the mortgage reserve		
<u>Building Use</u>	\$26,200	\$516
Facility upkeep. Utilities, and grounds maintenance		
<u>Education</u>	\$4,300	\$0
Curriculum, materials for Sunday school, Camps, Tuesday Bible Study, retreats, Confirmation, Background Checks, Baptism Candles and supplies, 1st Communion		
<u>Evangelism</u>	\$400	\$0
Outreach programs		
<u>Fellowship</u>	\$2,500	\$903
Events, Community building, service projects, Leadership retreats, advertising, Congregational meetings, Wednesday Night meals		
<u>General Administration</u>	\$34,175	\$4,522 a/v equipment fund
Church operations: insurance, copier lease, office supplies, dues, subscriptions, payroll & accounting services		
<u>Imagination Grant/ Kitchen</u>	\$0	\$14,175
This class has all restricted funds at present time for OFLC ongoing kitchen projects		
<u>Men's Ministry</u>	\$0	\$119
Self funded class for men's ministry		
<u>Music</u>	\$500	\$2,282
New music scores, additional music performances, guest musicians, instrument purchases and maintenance		
<u>Nourishing Hope</u>	\$0	\$4,689
OFLC's outreach ministry		
<u>Salaries & Benefits</u>	\$181,204	\$0
Adhering to the Minneapolis ELCA Synod Compensation guidelines for Pastor Cover benefits. Paid staff including: Pastor, Community coordinator, Office admin, Organist, Director of Music, Senior Choir Director, Nourishing Hope coordinator, Sunday school and confirmation coordinators		
<u>Seminary Scholarship</u>	\$4,000	\$7,987
Available scholarship for seminary students		
<u>Social Concerns</u>	\$500	\$1,000
Bedding ministry, start up ministry fund, pastor's discretionary fund		
<u>Stewardship</u>	\$10,160	\$0
Year round stewardship efforts, Capital campaign consultant		
<u>Women's Ministry</u>	\$200	\$14,160
Continues to be self funded via fundraising efforts		
<u>Worship</u>	\$1,150	\$934
Worship supplies, Bulletins, Palms, Ashes, Palm Crosses, and Communion		
<u>Youth Ministry</u>	\$1,500	\$2,684
Youth programs, funds for National Youth Gathering		

TOTALS:	Proposed budget	\$321,782	\$66,553 Restricted Funds
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2019 YTD General Operating Fund



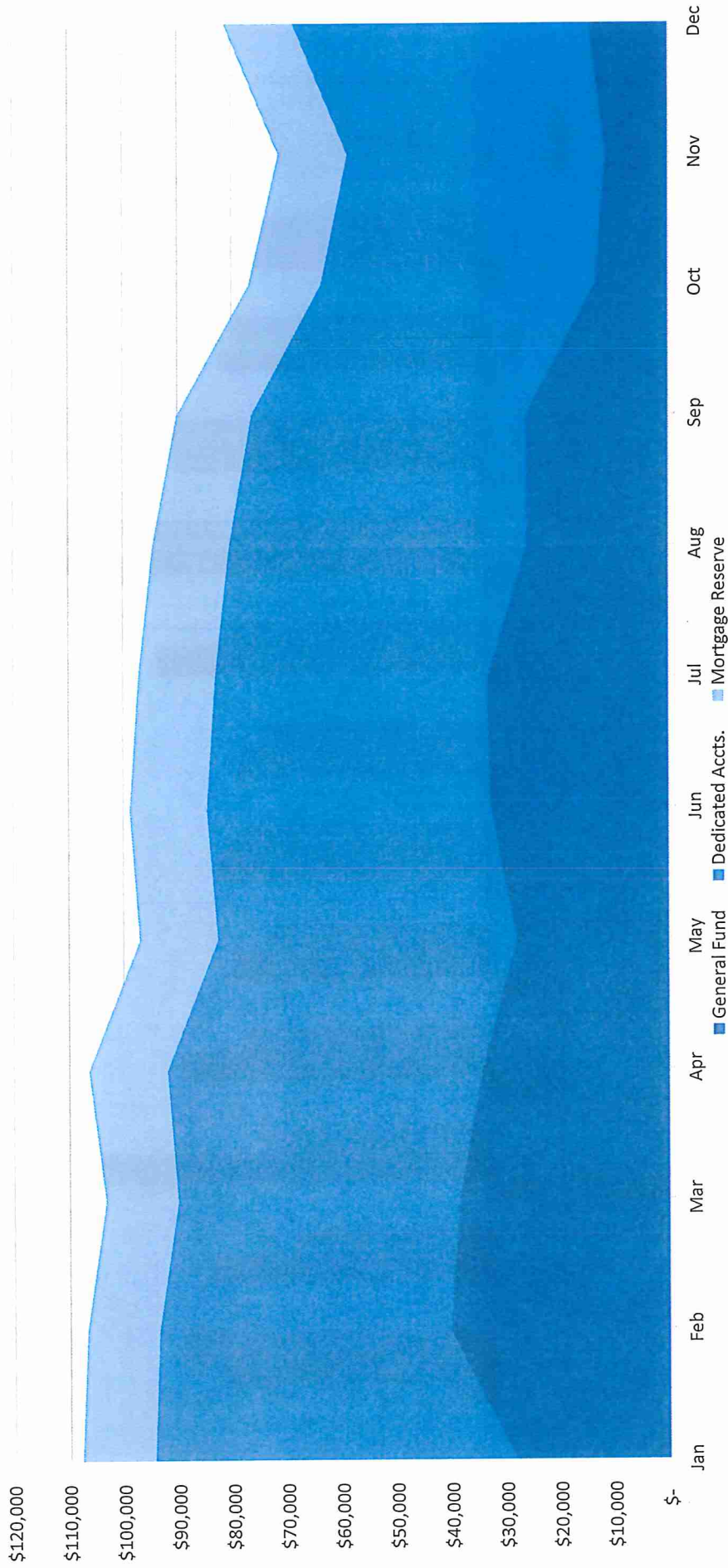
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Income	\$16,207	\$17,080	\$21,278	\$31,153	\$17,095	\$15,701	\$16,864	\$14,891	\$16,672	\$15,444	\$13,737	\$21,269	\$217,392
Expense	\$17,552	\$17,893	\$21,097	\$32,979	\$22,474	\$16,974	\$18,450	\$17,533	\$21,126	\$28,731	\$19,201	\$18,814	\$252,824
Difference	(\$1,345)	(\$812)	\$181	(\$1,826)	(\$5,379)	(\$1,273)	(\$1,586)	(\$2,642)	(\$4,455)	(\$13,287)	(\$5,464)	\$2,455	(\$35,432)

* April Expenses are higher because Portico benefits for Jan, Feb, March and April All paid in April

** April Income is higher because of two larger donations

*** Note: October Expenses higher Potcico benefits for Aug, Sept. and Oct. All paid in October and pay periods this month were 3x

2019 YTD Cash Balances



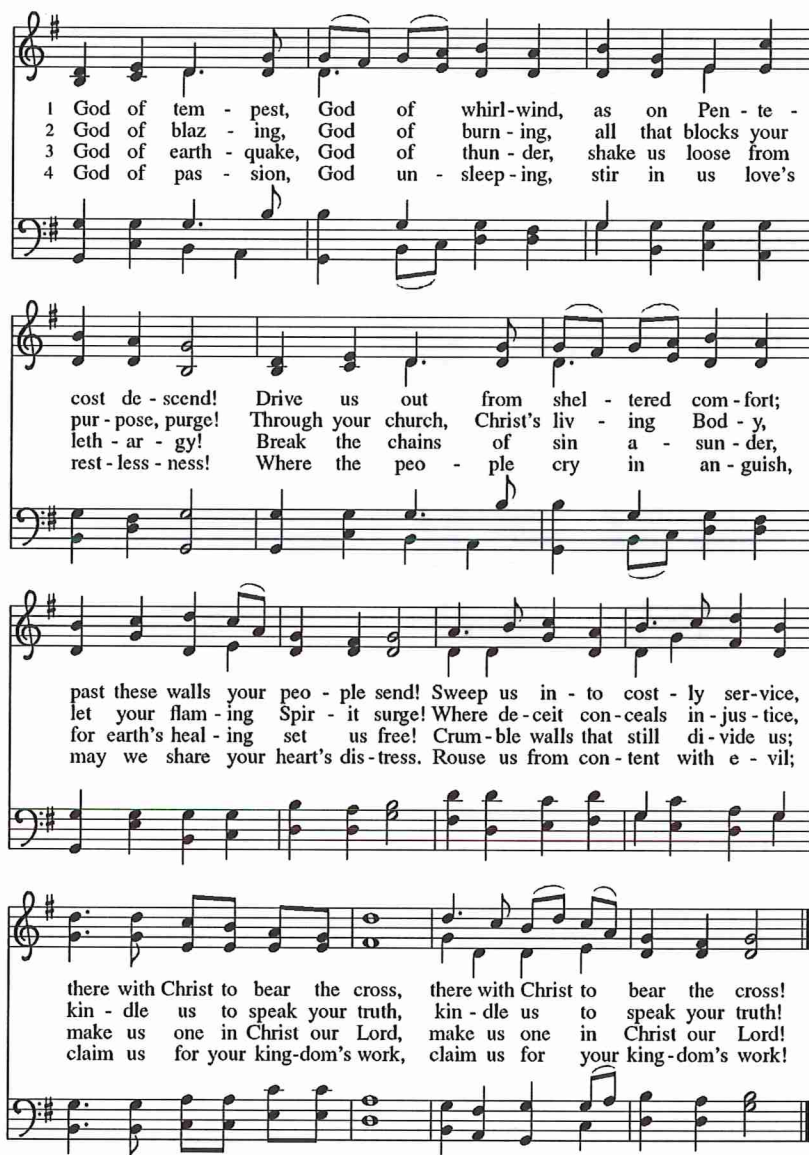
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
General Fund	\$ 28,303	\$ 40,321	\$ 38,627	\$ 34,343	\$ 28,042	\$ 32,860	\$ 33,367	\$ 26,103	\$ 26,260	\$ 13,582	\$ 11,571	\$ 14,578
Dedicated Accts.	\$ 66,184	\$ 53,300	\$ 51,412	\$ 57,599	\$ 54,506	\$ 51,669	\$ 49,594	\$ 54,268	\$ 50,009	\$ 49,925	\$ 47,125	\$ 53,971
Mortgage Reserve	\$ 13,276	\$ 13,126	\$ 13,179	\$ 14,343	\$ 14,340	\$ 14,125	\$ 14,107	\$ 14,055	\$ 13,702	\$ 13,177	\$ 12,524	\$ 12,582
Total Cash in Accts.	\$107,763	\$106,747	\$103,218	\$ 106,284	\$ 96,888	\$ 98,654	\$ 97,068	\$ 94,426	\$ 89,971	\$ 76,684	\$ 71,220	\$ 81,131

***Positive Disclaimer: The Thrivent Account updated to reflect the Capital Gains. Added to the General Fund in Dec \$1,552

Litany

- L. Gathering together as God's people in this place, may we always be aware of your presence in our midst.
- C. Lord, may we always be aware of your presence.
- L. Knowing that the Word is our light, may we continue to grow in our scriptural and confessional understandings.
- C. Lord, may our minds continue to grow in your word.
- L. Recognizing that stepping out in faith is not easy, we ask that you give us strength, O Lord, to listen and be bold and daring.
- C. Lord, give us the patience to listen and the strength to be bold and daring.
- L. While we strive to know ourselves and your will for us, may we build our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- C. Lord, help us to build faith-filled and healthy relationships with others.
- L. Recognizing that we are often the ones asking, "And who is my neighbor?" may we open our eyes, ears and hearts to all those in the community in which we live.
- C. Lord, may we always be open to those in the community in which we live.
- L. Recognizing the importance of Moses, the prophets and disciples, may we work together to accompany and raise up leaders for your church.
- C. Lord, may we have the insight, encouragement and skills to raise up courageous leaders.
- L. Recognizing the many gifts you have entrusted to us, may we use these gifts to do your work in the world today.
- C. Lord, may we use the gifts entrusted to us to do your work.

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind



1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl-wind, as on Pen - te -
 2 God of blaz - ing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your
 3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from
 4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's

cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;
 pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ's liv - ing Bod - y,
 leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,
 rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,

past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,
 let your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - jus - tice,
 for earth's heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;
 may we share your heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil;

there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!
 kin - dle us to speak your truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!
 make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!
 claim us for your king - dom's work, claim us for your king - dom's work!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle

Music: John Hughes

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- L. Let us pray. As we strive to be your church of the present and the future, may we nurture a spirit of collaboration and solidarity. May we all be partners in sharing the gospel and believing in Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.
- C. Amen.

Beyond the Wall: Making All Things New



When have you discovered newness in life through Christ? Did you have to step out in faith to do so? Perhaps you had to let go of your will and accept God's will. This

is a major turning point in the faith journey of many people. There are examples in Scripture about Job (Job 29-30), Elijah (I Kings 19:4-14), Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:1-2) and the women at the tomb (Luke 23:55 – 24:5). Consider the story of the rich young man (Matthew 19:16-26, Mark 10:17-31, Luke 18:18-30). He approached Jesus with a simple question: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." When the young man heard this, he was very sad and walked away, because he was very rich. Given the choice, he found it difficult to forsake wealth in this world for the promise of God and eternal life.

Sometimes there are barriers or walls that complicate trying something new or stepping out in faith. What walls or barriers have you encountered? Consider the story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10), who wanted to witness Jesus preaching but was too short to see past the crowd. After Zacchaeus climbed a tree, Jesus called out to him and invited himself to lunch in Zacchaeus' home. We know what Jesus said to Zacchaeus,

and he was a different person afterward. He had changed from wanting wealth and success in this world to desiring significance through a life of faith. When have you, or your congregation, chosen success over significance? Perhaps when using numbers or the size of your facilities as a measure. Moving toward significance usually means sacrificing success. In what areas of ministry is your congregation seeking significance today?

Stepping out in faith may be a personal choice for a short time but usually involves accompanying others. As members in the body of Christ, we are not called to meet our own needs alone. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) calls us to go beyond our barriers and bring the message of Jesus Christ to others. This helps us grow beyond a Christian enclave to become servants of Christ and a serving community. In what ways has your congregation moved from an enclave to a servant community?

Overcoming barriers and walls to make things new involves stepping out in faith. It means shaking loose from lethargy and moving out from sheltered comfort. In the process we break the chains of sin that hold us back and divide us from making us one in Christ. When we share in the distress of God's heart to do the kingdom's work, we are in tune with God's will, choosing significance over success and becoming a servant community. This is when we feel the vitality of our faith and the power of the Holy Spirit. May you experience this newness in Christ in and through your ministry.