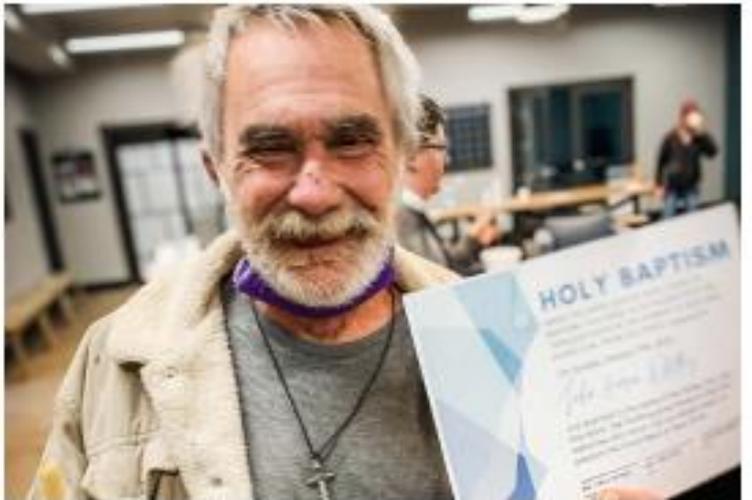


ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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



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."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Annual Meeting Agenda.....5
2021 Annual Meeting Minutes.....6
Minneapolis Area Synod Annual Report 2021.....9

Staff Reports

Pastor’s Reports.....11
President’s Report.....12
Community Outreach.....13
Coordinator of Internal Ministries and Administration.....14
Statistical Report.....15
Treasure’s Report.....15
Roadmap.....17
Budget.....18
Mortgage.....19

Internal Ministries

Engage & Confirm.....20
Sunday School.....21
Music.....23
Worship.....25
Building & Maintenance.....26

Outreach Ministries

NourishingHope.....27
Our Father’s Foundation.....28
Foundation Report.....30
Bedding Ministry.....31
Men’s Group.....31
Events.....32

Give To The Max.....	33
Quilting.....	33
Riverworks Thrift Store.....	34
Riverworks Food Shelf.....	34
WCCA Sr. Meals.....	34

Our Father's Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 30th 2022, 10:00am

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Reading of minutes from 2021

Motion to accept

OFLC Ministry Reports

 Foundation Report

 Building & Grounds

Council President's message

Treasurer's recap from 2021

Reading of proposed budget for 2022

Motion to accept proposed budget

Election of leadership

 Council President

 Council Vice President

 At Large Council Member(s)

Motion to accept election results

Other items from the congregation

Closing prayer

Motion to close meeting

2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

OFLC Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 31, 2021
OFLC Sanctuary and Zoom

Annual meeting began at 10:00am
24 voting members present – 27 members on Zoom – 51 total (25 quorum)
Opening Prayer – Pastor Aaron

2020 Reading of Meeting minutes. Kathy Lunderby made a motion to approve. Diane Dorrel seconded. Motion approved verbally by in person attendees, 27 of 27 members approved electronically online.

Ministry updates

- OFLC Foundation – Mark Nelson reports charitable donations to support 3 Onamia campers, \$500 to Riverworks Mason Match Food Drive, donated \$650 ELCA Synod for Sarah Dahl's candidacy expenses, \$300 Love Inc, \$379 Nourishing Hope, approximately \$1000 to Rockford Fire Dept. Great donation in memory of Nancy Varner \$78K to increase current investments to \$170,583. Over 20K in charitable funds available in 2021. Jim Strehlow, Norie Siers, Becky Miller, Ken Lunderby, Kathy Lunderby, Tom Lemmage and Mark Nelson. Please contact any director if you would like to be involved.
- Nourishing Hope – Julie Vergin reports a huge increase this year in the face of pandemic. Second Harvest changes allowed ministry an increase to 5 additional partners. Added 140 families to 700 families, over 3000 people served. WCCA additional produce from Untiedt's Farms. WCCA – distributed senior meals free of charge – 20 individuals served. Would love to see some new volunteers.
- Bedding ministry (Love, Inc.) – Laurie Hanson reports we are still up and running and can take requests for bedding or donations. Reduced need this year; continuing to help those in need. Donations of clean and gently used items welcome. Pillows need to be new. Contact Lynne Greseth or Laurie Hanson if you would like to help. Love, Inc.'s ministry info is available on their website.

President message – Rick Fuglie – Stability

Treasurers Report – Amy Krcil – reports 2020 story of financials, full financial statements are in Annual Report. Highlights:

- 2020 giving similar to 2019, Delay in full changes in building, money set aside for immediate repairs. Imagination fund for new ministries of \$1500. Request to expand

music ministry and dedicated choir director to ideally start in May. Balloon payment up in November for mortgage. Amy to investigate options.

- 2021 Budget and vote – Ken Lunderby made a motion to accept budget. Seconded by Wayne, Anthony, and more. Motion approved verbally by in person attendees. 27 of 27 members approved electronically online.

Nomination Slate and Vote

- President – Pam Hoekstra
- Vice President - open
- Treasurer – Amy Krcil
- Secretary – Chandler Drummond
- Council members at large
 - Brian Walton
 - Amy Jacobson
 - Shannon Sands
 - Tiffany Distad
 - Diane Dorrel (completed 1st year of a 2-year term)

Erik Dahl made a motion to accept Dan Schiller for Council member at large. Kathy Lunderby seconded. Motion approved verbally by in person attendees. 27 of 27 online attendees approved electronically.

Gail Swanson made a motion to accept the slate. Amy Blake Field seconded. Motion approved verbally by in person attendees. 27 of 27 online attendees approved electronically.

Kathy Lunderby made a motion to empower Council to appoint a Vice President from existing council members. Barb Fuglie seconded. Motion approved verbally by in person attendees. 26 of 27 online attendees approved electronically.

2021 Elected Council:

- President – Pam Hoekstra (1 year term)
- Vice President – open (to be appointed by Council, 1 year term)
- Treasurer – Amy Krcil (2 year term)
- Secretary – Chandler Drummond (1 year term)
- Council members at large (2 year terms)
 - Brian Walton
 - Amy Jacobson
 - Shannon Sands
 - Tiffany Distad
 - Diane Dorrell (on 2nd year of term)
 - Dan Shiller

Pastor's report – Pastor Aaron

- Interesting to start a call in the middle of a pandemic, in spite of not always seeing people's faces, one can still see each other's hearts. Moving forward, this learning will instruct the next year. How do we continue to personally connect with God and each other in the upcoming year? Thank you to the OFLC community on every way we connect to the world, to each other, and to God.

Open mic

- Sarah Dahl announced being accepted as a candidate with the ELCA Minneapolis synod and accepted the MDivX program at Luther Seminary – to begin June 2021.
- Wendy Gustafson request job descriptions and time expectations for council positions to help guide congregants in making decisions to serve on Council.
- Gail gives thanks to all who have served our congregation in the past season and to those who are moving into leadership.

Prayer and Closing – Pastor Aaron

Adjourn

- Lynne Greseth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ken Lunderby seconded. Motion approved by in person attendees. 14 of 27 attendees voted electronically, with 13 attendees logging off. Meeting adjourned at 11:45am.

Bishop's Annual Report for 2021

God's grace, peace, and hope be with you through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

I begin by sharing my profound gratitude to you – for your faithfulness, perseverance, and compassion

revealed in countless ways during this global pandemic, now nearing the start of its third year. As I reflect on the ministry of our synod in 2021, I am surprised to discover a number of “firsts” – something I did not expect in a pandemic year. In 2021:

- We received an unprecedented \$285,000 gift to provide educational debt relief to synod rostered leaders who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Currently, 12 percent of rostered leaders serving synod congregations are BIPOC, a sign of growth which will be strengthened by this gift.
- With our first ever million-dollar grant from the Lilly Endowment, we called Nick Tangen and Maya Bryant to lead our Faith and Neighboring Practices program, currently working with 13 congregations.
- In October, we set a goal to raise \$500,000 in three months to partner with our global companion synod in launching the first ever Lutheran University in Nigeria. As of this writing, we have \$298,000 in gifts, \$56,000 in pledges, and are awaiting word about a significant gift from the ELCA World Hunger Program!
- We rejoiced with Alleluia! Lutheran Church in St. Michael as they dedicated their brand-new church building. We have celebrated many remodeling projects in our synod, this was the first completely new structure built in more than ten years.
- We welcomed Holy Cross Lutheran Church, originally a Missouri Synod congregation, into the synod.
- Led by VP Felecia Boone and Eric Howard, a task force has been working to apply a racial equity lens to the way our synod distributes funds and utilizes resources.
- We helped launch the Center for Leadership and Neighborhood Engagement (CLNE) led by Rev. Kelly Chatman. CLNE convened a virtual prayer tent for 77 straight days during the trial of Derek Chauvin. Now, they host “Come Together,” a virtual conversation on the third Thursday evening of each month.
- We held our first Zoom Synod Assembly with speakers Dr. Drew Hart and Michael Osterholm; offered our first online Tool Kit (to be expanded in 2022); and provided four online worship services to provide respite and build unity across the synod.

- Listening to the weariness of our rostered leaders, we cancelled Bishop's Theological Conference for the first time and organized the whole staff in a caring process for our leaders, "Tending Weary Souls."
- We are preparing to host the ELCA Youth Gathering – the first ever held in Minneapolis, July 21-28, 2022. Though a list of "firsts" can make for an interesting annual report, the ministries that continue day-in and day-out are the work that sustains. We are blessed with over 675 rostered leaders, 307 serving in calls and 370 retired or without call. In 2021, we supported 57 persons preparing to become deacons or pastors. We work hard so the church has the loving, faithful, and theologically well-formed ministers it needs.

Our monthly conference meetings and other synod gatherings continue to reveal a real hunger for leaders to stay connected and discern best practices for ministry in these times. We are honored and humbled by our calling to serve as convener of such holy conversations.

It is the generosity of congregations like yours that make the synod's work possible. Thank you! We seek to be careful stewards of every gift.

A year of firsts. More importantly, we gather around the unique, first-ever, Word made flesh – the Christmas miracle of God becoming human for us and our salvation. And even more, this Word made flesh abides with us – through all our firsts and lasts and everything in between.

With a grateful heart,

Bishop Ann Svennungsen

STAFF REPORTS
PASTOR REPORT From Pastor Aaron

Greetings OFLC!

There is much I could say about our ministry together in 2021. However, I encourage you to read the words written by the other excellent leaders God has blessed us with. They will explain the ministry so much more eloquently than I! That has been the number one thing that has stuck with me through this past year – seeing God at work through those who have chosen to lead in various ways, working with young, old, and everyone in between. Our identity as the church God has called us to be is rooted in people such as these who bring us all together to create Christian community in all sorts of ways and places.

The second thing I want to say thank you for is your ongoing support of me and Kelly this past year. Whether it has been an encouraging word, your support of my ministry as a Navy Chaplain to Marines and Sailors all across the nation, or allowing me time to get and recover from much needed surgery, it is good to feel cared for. It makes me and Kelly feel like we're not simply just the "Pastor and Pastor's Wife" but actually part of the OFLC community.

As we enter into 2022, we also are entering OFLC's 50th year of ministry in the Rockford-Greenfield area. The thing I love about milestone anniversaries is that they give us a chance to reflect on past, present, and future. We get to share stories of past memories. We get to gather together – folks of all ages. We also get to dream. I'm looking forward to doing all of these with you this year as we celebrate, and in doing so, experience the very presence of the God in Jesus Christ who celebrates along with us!

One thing I would challenge us as a congregation is to think less about accomplishments in the past, present, and future. That is a natural tendency of where we focus – "doing things." Rather, I'd ask you to consider how being part of OFLC, has made us and other feel. Whether a visitor or charter member, what has their experience of the OFLC community felt like? And did their experience also draw them into an experience with God in Christ Jesus?

I believe answering those questions, identifying how one feels as part of a Christian community that cares for one another, cares deeply for a just world, and lives with compassion and kindness will help us discern just exactly what OFLC has been, what it is, and what it will be.

May God be with us this year and beyond, and in all things!

Peace,

Pastor Aaron

PRESIDENT'S REPORT From Pam Hoekstra

A year ago, I did not think I would be writing a president's report for OFLC this January. Despite encouragement and several persistent reminders, I was determined not to hear the call to consider serving as president for our congregation. "I don't have time" I kept saying and, "I've never even served on council, I'm not ready." But just as God always does, he reminded me that what I do in this world is not about me but instead about him and his plan. So, on the morning of our last annual meeting when the question came up again of who would be willing to serve, I felt a nudge and prayed, "Lord if this is your will, please pave the way for me to serve."

All things, whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive. Matthew 21:22

I share this with you because I think we all feel this way when we think about moving out of our comfort zone to do what God calls us to do. Especially now, with the continued uncertainty of what the pandemic will bring in the coming months and challenging economic forecasts. This past year has not been easy – I've made some mistakes and learned several lessons the hard way – and yet I can testify that God has been present throughout the journey this year. Each time I have struggled God has provided exactly what was needed – whether that was an ear to listen or a perspective to challenge me to see things differently.

In 2021, we were blessed with the opportunity to worship again in person and enjoy communion together. We also were blessed not only with people willing to do the work to support our existing ministries (such as OFLC foundation, Nourishing Hope, the bedding ministry, and more) but also with members who felt called to help us reimagine how we can share God's love in our church and our community. Pastor Aaron challenged us to rethink our confirmation program as a faith family, giving everyone an opportunity on Wednesday nights to fulfill the congregation's part of the promises made at baptism. Through Sherry Meola's and Amy Blake Field's vision to share the love of God and our church, we have regular reminders of God sightings and sponsored a fall harvest event with the cub scouts to invite our community to our church home last fall. Although we couldn't hold our cookie walk the same way we always had, Shannon Sand provided leadership to create a fun, family Christmas market instead. During these moments I've heard comments about joy and energy returning to OFLC, and I've felt it too.

For 2022 my hope is that we can continue to build a positive presence in our community by continuing Nourishing Hope and reaching out more to welcome our neighbors to join us as we have this past year. I am looking forward to celebrating our 50th year as a congregation. I would like to see us work together to ensure our church home is safe and welcoming to all.

God is calling us to love him and love each other. How will you rise above uncertainty to help us live in Christ's love in 2022? How will you help us invite all to worship, learn, disciple, and serve? It may not be easy but if we pray and work together, I truly believe with God and each other all things are possible.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH From BRITTNI BRONCZYK

The Coordinator of Community Outreach position really spoke to me, as I have always been passionate about serving others. I was drawn in by the prospect of spreading God's word and being His hands and feet while making an impact in my community. I joined the team at Our Father's Lutheran Church at the end of 2021. In the few short months I have been here, I have felt welcomed, supported and appreciated. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

My main focus has been learning the workings of NourishingHOPE. I have enjoyed working with the NourishingHOPE Committee, the Council Liaison, Chandler Drummund, and the volunteers who support the ministry. I started off by researching and familiarizing myself with the different regulations and guidelines that are required for a program like NourishingHOPE, and also completed several of the mandatory trainings. During the first couple of months, I focused on increasing advertising for and awareness of the program. I reached out to leadership at each partner congregation and met with them one on one to begin building those important relationships. I have also been exploring different resources to meet the needs of those we are currently serving. In 2021 NourishingHOPE formed a partnership with two local grocers, Whole Foods and Cub Foods, from whom we collect donations that consist of various baked goods, canned goods, dairy products, etc. These items are then distributed on the monthly distribution day. We have also utilized these donated items when needs of our local community members have arisen in between distributions.

Another aspect of my role is supporting the congregation and individual members in their community outreach efforts. This fall I worked with Amy Field on the Fall Fest/Trunk or Treat event. I also assisted Shannon Sand as she organized and prepared the Crow River Christmas event at OFLC. I truly enjoy collaborating with the congregation members and helping each event be a success, and am thankful to be a part of this process.

We hosted a winter clothing drive in November, which provided much needed items to 15 families. Despite this event being organized on short notice, I feel really great about the impact that we made in our community. The leftover items were donated to an organization that collects and delivers necessities to the homeless communities in St. Paul.

My fundamental goal since taking on this new position, was bringing the church to the community and the community to church. I have reached out past the congregation to invite volunteers to join us in our mission, and to pray with us as we meet the needs of our neighbors. I love seeing the immense joy it brings people to selflessly serve others.

In 2022 I hope to grow OFLC's presence in the community, learning how we can better serve and meet the needs of the residents of Rockford/Greenfield area and greater communities. I'd also like to diversify donation sources for NourishingHOPE, especially recurring financial donations. I will be focusing attention on inviting other churches who may feel the call to partner with us on NourishingHOPE. We already have two potential new partners that we are going to schedule meetings with.

Another lofty goal for 2022, is to increase the congregation's engagement in the OFLC current ministries, or adding new ministries that more align with the congregation's interests.

I will be joining the board of the Rockford/Greenfield Chamber of Commerce in January. I believe this will truly benefit my role here at OFLC. I hope to use this opportunity to further expand OFLC's outreach in the community by attending community events hosted by the Chamber. As well as learning more about our community from a different angle.

I thank the OFLC Council, OFLC Congregation and NourishingHOPE Committee for the opportunity to support and build on the strong foundation you have built.

Thank you,
Brittini

INTERNAL MINISTRY & ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT From Melissa Ungaro

The Coordinator of Internal Ministries and Administration is a long title that can be lost on some as to what does she really do all day? Besides answering phones, sorting the mail, making copies and answering emails. So what do I do? I am the first line of contact many make with the church; I organize and retain records, both internal and statistical; make sure any operating system OFLC uses is up to date (Breeze, Website, Facebook, Copier, Phones, Zoom, Ordering supplies, etc); I organize what happens within the church walls and outside of them, I help organize, implement and support the Pastor and all internal ministries within Our Father's Church. I help keep the church organized and running smoothly, to the best of my abilities. I am additional support for NH when needed. I help with Building and Maintenance when scheduling is needed. I have helped with security of the building. At times, my job is "By the Numbers":

STATISTICAL ATTENDANCE REPORT

Number of Baptisms – 3

Number of Memorials/Funerals – 4

Number of Weddings – 0

Number of Groups the use the Building – 22

Number of Times Groups meet: Weekly: 9 Bi-Weekly: 5 Monthly: 8

Members Transferred out: 9

Students Confirmed: 7

Sundays Worship (Sept 2020 – May 2021): In person Average: 35; Virtual Average: 34
(June – Aug 2021): In person Average: 34; Virtual Average: 7

Wednesdays Worship (Sept 2020 – May 2021) In person Average: 4; Virtual Average: 8

TREASURER REPORT From Amy Krcil

2021 in Review:

Overall, it has been business as usual with our church with some traditions being reestablished toward the end of the year. The Fall Festival was great fun, Crow River Christmas was festive, and the Christmas Cantata was magical. I was happy to see some “normalcy” return to our Ministry!

Contributions in 2021 was approximately \$262,000. As you know, our sanctuary roof suffered some damage from a spring hailstorm. We filed an insurance claim which covered the cost of the repair. The claim amount was approximately \$25k. This is included in our 2021 contributions. If the insurance proceeds are taken out of the equation, we were flat with 2020 giving and put us below our 2021 goal by \$22k.

Expenses were \$28k higher than our 2021 proposed budget. Again, if the roof repair which was covered by insurance is excluded, expenses were only \$3k higher.

All of this contributed to a profit of \$14k against a budget of \$39k.

The mortgage payments for the year were \$29,435. The interest paid was \$14,248 while principle paid was \$14,818. The interest rate is 4.15%. The mortgage was refinanced in November 2021 and we incurred a \$250 fee. We also reestablished the \$100k LOC.

Our Fathers has a financial commitment to Benevolence which includes ELCA (5% of annual giving), RiverWorks (1% of annual giving) and Love, Inc (\$50 per month.) I am happy to report that we kept our commitment and paid approximately \$12,000 to these ministries. We will continue our commitment in 2022.

A review was done of all the designated funds to ensure that the balances have been correctly reported. The results of this review include several adjustments to each of the funds with the most significant findings within Building Improvements and Technology. The mortgage reserve was also reevaluated and concluded there is a \$7,125 balance. Total Designated Cash is \$91,146 and General Use is \$17,908.

2022 Budget:

The 2022 Contributions proposal is \$285,600. This is a 7% increase from our 2021 actual after the insurance proceeds are deducted. The 2022 budget includes the already approved expenditure on the air conditioning for the Education Wing as this money has been donated.

Expenses will increase by \$60,118 for 2022. In addition to our "business as usual" expenses, there are several highlights in the budget worth mentioning.

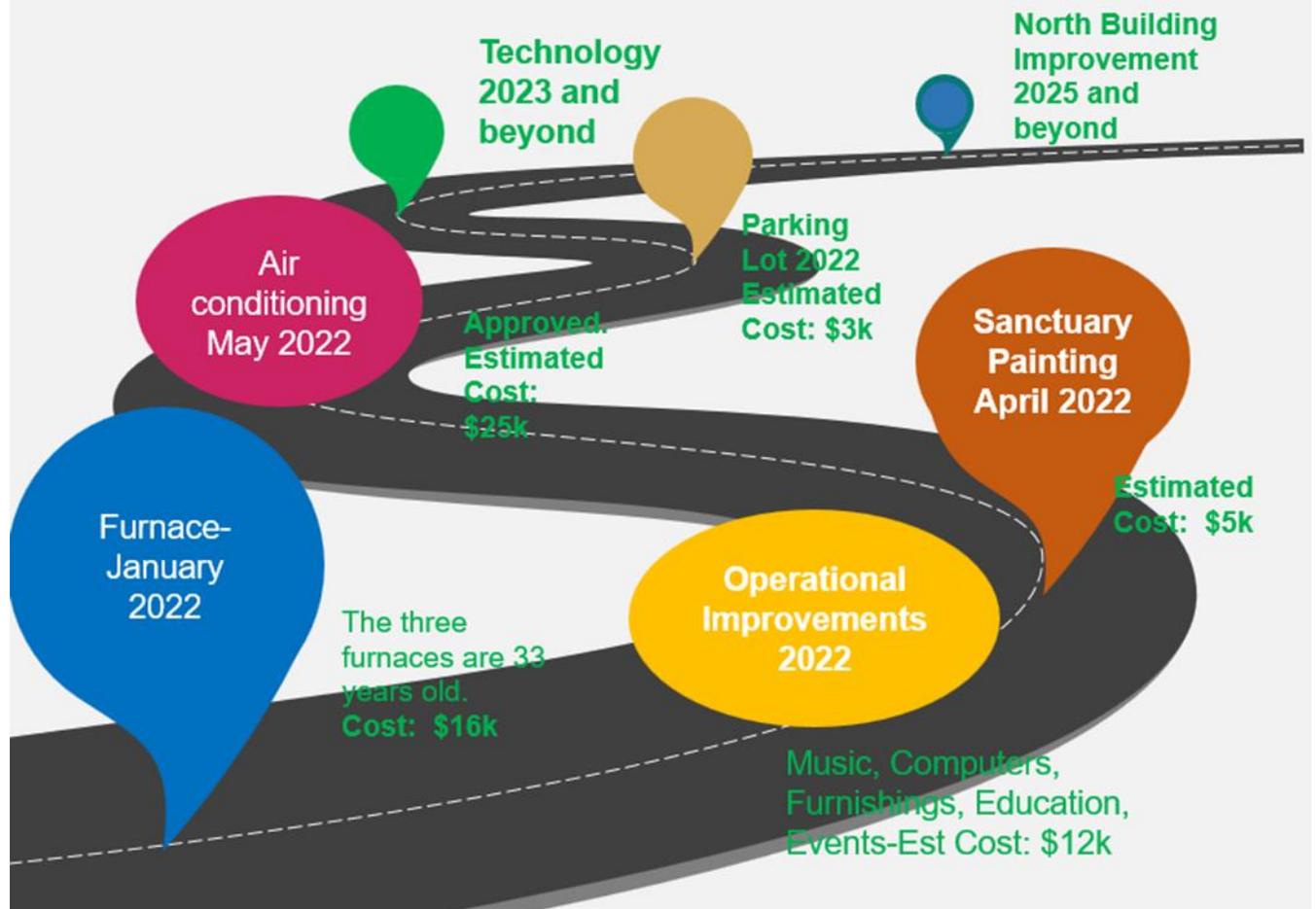
- \$49,400 Building Maintenance and Repair—this includes the furnace newly installed in January for \$17,000, pre-approved air conditioning at \$25,000, \$2,500 for resurfacing the parking lot, and \$5,000 for sanctuary painting. (The \$4,000 raised through Crow Christmas will be used toward the resurfacing of the parking lot)
- \$16,920 Nourishing Hope—this includes expenses to maintain the truck and the cost of food. In 2021, we saw a reprieve from having to pay for the food
- \$12,000 Operational Costs—this includes costs to expand our music ministry, the purchase of computers, host the Fall Festival and Crow River Christmas and books/supplies for Education

The proposed budget net loss is \$22,955. While this is the mathematical result of our proposed budget, we all know that God supports all of HIS work.

Therefore I say to you, whatever you desire, when you pray, believe that you shall receive it and you shall have it. Mark 11:24.

Please refer to the income statement in the annual report for additional detail.

Roadmap—Our Fathers Enhancement Plan



2021 Report & 2022 Budget:

OUR FATHERS LUTHERAN CHURCH

	YTD 2021 December Actual	For the Year 2022 Budget	Higher/(Lower) than 2021	% Change
Income				
Total Income	\$ 262,387	\$ 285,600	\$ 23,213	9%
Expense				
Advertising and Promotion	95	1,500	1,405	1479%
Automobile Expense	43	8,400	8,357	19660%
Bank Service Charges	1,075	1,080	5	0%
Building and Property Security	1,632	-	(1,632)	-100%
Charitable Contributions	13,705	14,142	437	3%
Computer and Internet Expenses	1,090	5,080	3,990	366%
Conferences and Meetings	15	400	385	2567%
Dues and Subscriptions	431	-	(431)	-100%
Imagination Fund	-	-	-	100%
Food & Beverage	1,172	4,080	2,908	248%
Furnishings	-	1,500	1,500	#DIV/0!
Insurance Expense	11,069	10,766	(303)	-3%
Interest Expense	14,248	15,300	1,052	7%
Landscaping Expenses	3,870	4,620	750	19%
Ministry Expenses	-	2,160	2,160	#DIV/0!
Miscellaneous Exp	-	480	480	#DIV/0!
Outside Services	-	-	-	#DIV/0!
Total Payroll Expenses	130,818	144,101	13,283	10%
Postage and Delivery	506	330	(176)	-35%
Printing and Reproduction	4,397	4,130	(267)	-6%
Professional Fees	12,858	11,248	(1,610)	-13%
Rent Expense	-	600	600	#DIV/0!
Repairs and Maintenance	27,102	49,400	22,298	82%
Small Tools and Equipment	3,453	1,600	(1,853)	-54%
Stipend	1,000	1,000	-	0%
Supplies	4,415	7,500	3,085	70%
Telephone Expense	1,700	1,740	40	2%
Utilities	13,742	17,398	3,656	27%
Total Expense	248,437	308,555	60,118	24%
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 13,950	\$ (22,955)	\$ (36,905)	

Status of Funds:

Available Cash	December
BankWest SB Checking	\$ 85,464
Nourishing Hope	21,456
Thrivent - Money Market	2,135
Total Cash on Hand	\$ 109,055

Designated Cash	
Benevolence - Love, Inc	150
Benevolence - River Works	734
Benevolence - ELCA	3,920
Total Benevolence	4,804
Building Mortgage	7,126
Building Improvements	20,733
Imagination Grant/Kitchen	1,067
Nourishing Hope	21,647
Seminary Scholarship	8,339
Social Concerns	(21)
Technology	9,606
Ministry	17,859
Total Designated Cash	\$ 91,159

Balance Available for General Use	\$ 17,896
--	------------------

Mortgage:

MONTH	Mortgage Fund Offering	Mortgage Expense	Difference	Principal Pd. Down	Mortgage Interest Paid	Mortgage Adj to match Bank Balance	Mortgage Balance	Mortgage Reserve
December 2020							\$ 365,310.93	\$ 6,538.16
January	\$ 2,081.00	2,653.17	(572.17)	1,274.51	1,378.66		364,036.42	\$ 5,965.99
February	\$ 3,959.00	2,653.17	1,305.83	1,411.81	1,241.36		362,624.61	\$ 7,271.82
March	\$ 1,641.00	2,653.17	(1,012.17)	1,416.62	1,236.55		361,207.99	\$ 6,259.65
April	\$ 3,513.00	2,653.17	859.83	1,289.46	1,363.71		359,918.53	\$ 7,119.48
May	\$ 1,771.00	2,653.17	(882.17)	1,338.16	1,315.01		358,580.37	\$ 6,237.31
June	\$ 1,749.00	2,653.17	(904.17)	1,386.40	1,266.77		357,193.97	\$ 5,333.14
July	\$ 1,661.00	2,653.17	(992.17)	1,347.77	1,305.40		355,846.20	\$ 4,340.97
August	\$ 2,882.50	2,653.17	229.33	1,309.33	1,343.84		354,536.87	\$ 4,570.30
September	\$ 2,081.00	2,653.17	(572.17)	1,357.30	1,295.87		353,179.57	\$ 3,998.13
October	\$ 3,111.00	2,653.17	457.83	1,362.25	1,290.92		351,817.32	\$ 4,455.96
November	\$ 2,686.50	2,653.17	33.33	1,324.35	2,567.25		350,492.97	\$ 4,489.29
December	\$ 2,431.00	250.00	2,181.00	-	(1,357.30)	901.94	351,394.91	\$ 7,125.65
2020 TOTALS	\$ 29,567.00	\$ 29,434.87	\$132.13	\$14,817.96	\$14,248.04		\$ 351,394.91	\$ 7,125.65

Current Rate 4.150%
 Current Amortization 25 years
 Maturity of Loan November 2026

INTERNAL MINISTRIES

ENGAGE & CONFIRM From Tiffany Distad

Confirmation 2021

Engage & Confirm include those in grades 5th-9th and meet on Wednesday Nights from 6-7p. This year we celebrate Confirmation Sunday with the 10th graders on 10/31 and 1st Communion with the 5th Graders on 12/12. Some of the kids volunteered at Nourishing Hope, Trunk or Treat Fall Fest, OFLC Christmas Market, and helped the elementary kids make Christmas ornaments. Adult volunteers from OFLC have been a huge help in making Wednesday nights a success. We ended our year with Advent Worship through-out Dec. making Christmas tree ornaments for OFLC's tree, and a gingerbread house competition- where we learned that Jesus' birth was probably just as chaotic as trying to get a gingerbread house to stay together!



Our focus in 2022 will be maintaining a fun and safe place for preteens & teens to come together and learn about Jesus. We are hoping to bring in a few speakers to share their message about God & God sightings, and helping to get more signatures in 7th-9th graders Confirmation Books

https://www.ourfatherschurch.org/uploads/2/9/7/8/29784741/confirmation_book_2021.pdf

Each week of the month is a different focus taken from OFLC's mission statement: Worship, Learn, Serve, Disciple.

Week 1 : Pizza night, service project & worship

Week 2 : 7th-9th work on their Confirmation Book with adult volunteers from OFLC. 5th-6th meet separately and use SparkHouse curriculum. In 2021 our focus was Lutheran Living.

Week 3: 7th-9th work on a case study lesson. These case studies are in-depth, detailed examination of a particular case within a real-world context. Their thoughts and ideas are sometimes silly and funny but mostly they are smart and thought provoking. 5th-6th meet separately and use SparkHouse curriculum. In 2022 our focus will be the New Testament and Lent.

Week 4: Speaker or game night

We are working towards more interaction between teens & adults of the OFLC congregation. We feel that everyone has a part in teaching our children about Christianity. We want the kids to know & feel a sense of community so that no matter how far they go they can always come back to church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL From Lindsay Bervig

Despite the challenges of another pandemic year, 2021 was a great year in Sunday School!

Winter/Spring 2021:

During the Winter and Spring of 2021, OFLC continued with in-person Sunday School. Our own Grayson Hunter's inquiring mind inspired the fun, hands-on lesson "What did Jesus eat" where the kids were able to taste bread, dates, figs, and even dried grasshoppers! We honored our "Graduating 4th Graders" with special Get-to-Know You Facebook posts and a special gift. We ended the spring with an End-of-the-Year Pajama Party and Bingo!

Summer 2021:

OFLC hosted "Discovery on Adventure Island VBS" on August 9-12th. We had 25 students from Preschool through 5th Grade participate, along with 5 adult volunteers and 7 Confirmation Student volunteers. Each day consisted of a Large Group Assembly, Craft Time, Snack & Bible Story, Science Station, and Recreation Station. There was a lot of energy and it was A LOT of fun!

Fall/Winter 2021:

We resumed Sunday School in the Fall of 2021 with In-Person classes once again, continuing with the Sparkhouse Classroom Curriculum. We had 28 students register! The students packaged Halloween treat bags to send to Military Service Members through a program called Soldiers' Angels. We participated in our third year of Operation Christmas Child, packing a total of 60 shoeboxes with the help of our Sunday School Families, Congregation, and Erin and Jesse Smith with Close to Home Construction! On December 12th, we performed "Christmas Eve at Angel School" for our annual Christmas Program with 23 students participating.

We have some exciting ideas for 2022!

Project Linus:

We will introduce a Spring Service Project called Project Linus that will involve making fleece blankets for hospitalized children in the metro area.

Parent's Night Out:

I would like OFLC to host a Parent's Night Out for our Sunday School families and beyond! For a small fee, parents can drop their kids off at OFLC for a fun night of food, crafts, and games while they enjoy a much needed date night! I look forward to involving our Confirmation Students in this endeavor!

Children's Choir

I would like to trial a Children's Choir this spring. Rehearsals would be held for 30 minutes AFTER Sunday School on Sunday mornings, and performances would be ~once per month during the church service. This would be in addition to Sunday School performances.

Summer 2022 VBS

Our curriculum this summer will be "Food Truck Party" from Cokesbury! Stay tuned for more information!

Finally, I would like to thank our wonderful teachers for the commitment they make to our church and our kids every week:

Dan Reed

Gail Swanson

Kristin Doboszanski

Lynne Greseth

Rachel Reed

They will never know how much they inspire and teach me - I feel very blessed and honored to know them and work with them every week!

Prepared by: Lindsey Bervig, Sunday School Coordinator

Progress! 😊 2021 saw the return of in-person music of bell choir, choir, kids' bells and individuals who shared vocal and instrumental solos throughout the year.

The bell choir was excited to have Mary Dahl join for some practices during the summer. Not only was it an opportunity for Mary to learn about ringing but it gave the bell choir members an opportunity to mentor, which they are exceptional at! It was such a beautiful and rich time together!

We also were able to have a Christmas Cantata in person this year, which was wonderful. It was good to be able to come together in person to focus on Christ and the miracle of his birth and Salvation He gives to us!

Just as there is much to celebrate and give thanks for as we reflect on the past year, there is equally as much to celebrate and give thanks for as we look ahead to the new year and the opportunities that we have to share with each other the wonderful gift of music!

These are some of the visions of 2022:

Bell choir: We have amazing bell ringers! We have all witnessed their amazing talents of ringing multiple bells and abilities to play several different parts. As amazing as their talents are, having to play like that is also very stressful! Truth is, we need more people to play bells with us! Whether youth or adult, experienced or not, we hope you will join us and experience how much fun it is to play bells and enjoy fabulous fellowship at the same time!

There are also many bell choir pieces that have other instrumental accompaniment such as piano, percussion, violin, etc. We have only had sporadic opportunity to play these pieces with all of the instruments they have opportunity for. It would be wonderful to have more opportunities for that and would welcome all interested in offering this music support to the bell choir.

Choir: We have a wonderful group of people participating in choir currently and would love to see our choir grow with additional members! Many people love to sing but are afraid to in public because of one reason or another. If this is you, I encourage to consider joining our group for several reasons: Your singing is not based on your individual talent; singing in a group blends voices together and is a great way to grow your gift and passion! You may get exposure to some music you have never had a chance to sing and discover a new interest. Creativity is also encouraged and welcomed – there are several ways to sing and share music and we have reaped the benefits of the creativity that has been shared in the past and is continually encouraged to all. It is also a great way to meet new people or get to know people you already know even better!

Budget funds were approved at the end of last year for a new choir director. Through conversations I have had with Pastor Aaron concerning choir director and accompanist, we have decided to changing course and hire an accompanist instead and I would continue to lead as choir director. COVID has restricted us from moving forward on this last year due to limitations and cautions during the pandemic. However, we are hopeful that within the next few weeks, we will be able to find someone to fill this role. If you are one who is interested in accompanying our choir or know of someone who might be interested in this role and would like to know more, please contact Tammy @ 763-732-8920 or tjarvi@cbiz.com.

We have also been connected with the Presbyterian Church in Rockford with some of their members joining us to sing for worship services and Cantatas as they have been able to. In return, we have joined some of their services to sing together. It has been wonderful sharing this music ministry and it is our desire to continue growing together in the future.

Kids' bells: We are currently scheduling the kids to play bells at least the second Sunday of every month, and are hopeful it can increase in frequency during the course of the year. Because no formal training is needed, kids of all ages are encouraged to participate when they have opportunity to play bells. It is fun for kids and congregation alike when everyone participates in this special music ministry.

Confirmation student participation: There have been visions of opportunities for Confirmation students to have a chance to participate in some music ministry as part of their confirmation "education". Continued conversations are encouraged to explore these possibilities and opportunities. As relationship building has been one of the key focuses in our confirmation program, this collaboration would contribute to moving forward in that goal and be a blessing to all in so many ways.

Ukulele group: We would like to start a Ukulele group for all ages sometime in February. Whether are a beginner or advanced player, please join us for fun, continued learning and fellowship! More details to follow for start-up dates and additional info.

Percussion group: This is a vision that has not sprouted yet. This is something that would be open to all ages in which we would listen to songs and play our own percussion with the music. No skills required...would learn as we go. There are many possibilities with this vision!

Community music share opportunities: There are several aspects of this vision which has been an ongoing one but has not sprouted yet either. 1) Wouldn't it be fun to invite everyone in our community and surrounding communities to come together periodically to share music with each other! Some additional possibilities of the community music share vision would be visits from school music programs or school music individuals or groups that have been working on competition performances that would like to share with us what they have been working on.

2) We invite the community to OFLC for concerts periodically that feature our music ministry groups. 3) We hire various genre groups to perform concerts and invite the community (maybe as fundraisers for various OFLC ministries and introduce them to OFLC). 4) We hold music workshops in which people could share their musical gifts and teach others to sing or play instruments.

Sharing your music ministry vision: Do you have a music ministry idea that is new? I would love to have you share that vision and help it grow! The possibilities are endless!

I want to thank God and all of you for the opportunity to serve as Music Director, bell choir director and choir director for the past several years. I have been truly blessed in this calling and hope the music ministry we share has been a blessing to you as well. As we continue to vision and participate together in these varying music ministries within OFLC and in outreach of community and surrounding communities, blessings will abound as we worship, learn, disciple and serve God and one another together! That is truly exciting! To God be the glory!

In His love and grace,

Tammy Jarvi
763-732-8920
tjarvi@cbiz.com

WORSHIP From Suzanne Otten

What was done in 2021?

- It has been exciting, and warms my heart, to see so many of my friends back in Worship over the last few months. Another baby step toward normal was receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the railing again after so many long months. Just being able to kneel at the altar brings so much joy to my soul! The Christmas Cantata was a high point of the year for me, another step toward normalcy. I especially loved the building of the Nativity scene as the choirs sang and played out the story of Jesus' birth!

What you celebrate about this ministry and how it has contributed to one or more of the four areas of OFLC's mission: Worship, Learn, Serve, Disciple?

- I celebrate all of the lay leaders, service coordinators, musicians, and of course, Pastor Aaron, who strive to make worship at Our Father's meaningful. It says something huge about our congregation that we can all step up and fill in when needed. Not every congregation can do what we do!
- I celebrate all of the Sunday School and Confirmation teachers, mentors, coordinators, & parents who have accepted the difficult job of teaching our youth. It is amazing to see the

Sunday School room filled with children, and that is something that could not happen without all of their efforts.

Any Impact on the larger Rockford-Greenfield community?

- Trunk or Treat & Crow River Christmas were especially meaningful! It was amazing to see so many folks at these community events, not just from our own congregation, but from the surrounding community as well. Obviously, the desire to connect with friends and neighbors is strong in each of us!

BUILDING & MAINTENANCE From John Gilb

Building and grounds was quite busy this last year. We installed a new phone system in the office. We had a cleanup day in mid-May that went well with about 25 good souls including the boy scouts. We had a cookout for everyone also. Mid-summer our air went down and needed that repaired. Did some patching on the roof because of a leak. Had a furnace gas leak that was repaired. The eternal candle was changed to a LED for safety and cost savings. Worked with Jessie Smith, Amy Krcil, and the insurance company to replace the roof over the sanctuary. Plus replaced the skylights. Gathered quotes for AC in the education wing and the big meeting room.

Now on to 2022.

We have replaced our cleaning company to a single party that will give us more flexibility and face to face response to our needs. We received quotes for 3 new furnaces that were a safety issue that was voted on by the council to go local with High Road Heating. They are now installed and are 95% efficient instead of the 1988 models that were 80%. Looking at replacing the lighting and repairing some in the sanctuary. Also getting quotes on painting of the sanctuary. May need some roof sealing on the north end to get us by for a while. We will have another cleanup this spring. That's enough for now but am always looking for people to join our group. If you can fog up a mirror, we'll take you. Just Kidding

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

NOURISHING HOPE From Gail Swanson

2021 was another productive year for our Nourishing Hope (NH) program. Although our distribution model has remained altered by the continuing pandemic, NH continues to provide fresh produce, dairy, and some staples and meat to our community, and the communities of our partners.

Since the addition of our community partners in 2020, and the acquisition of additional assets, it had become apparent that NH would benefit from a more formal relationship with Our Father's. OFLC's Council and the NH Board (now deemed a Committee of OFLC) have worked together to determine the parameters of this relationship. The result is that there is a cohesive plan in place for purchasing, funding, and decision-making.

Continuing partners in our program are Buffalo Covenant Church in Buffalo, St. Thomas Catholic Church in Corcoran, Light of Christ Lutheran Church in Delano, and Alleluia Lutheran in St. Michael. Montrose left Nourishing Hope to continue their own food distribution program in mid-2021, and Alleluia of St. Michael will be leaving as of the end of 2021 to concentrate their efforts on their internal food distribution program.

Each month volunteers gather to pack approximately 500 boxes of produce to be distributed to the 5 communities we've served since mid-year. Over these months, we've distributed an average of 18,500 pounds of produce, dairy, and other grocery items each month- an average of 37 pounds per household! Clients have come from almost 70 different zip codes to take part in this food distribution - a real testament to the need for NH.

As a result of the pandemic, much of the produce distributed this year was provided without charge through Second Harvest. Beginning in October we were again paying for these items, although the items come to us at a very reduced rate. In addition, Untiedt's Vegetable Farm of Waverly has also donated tons, yes TONS, of produce to be distributed by NH. We could not be more grateful

Monetary donations to NH have been made by Buffalo Covenant Church, Light of Christ Lutheran Church, FEED, Montrose Lions, Loretto Lions, and a number of anonymous and individual donors. Our Father's has contributed by providing space for packing for all partners, and paid personnel to order, advertise, organize, and coordinate this effort. This summer, NH purchased a refrigerated truck for picking up and storing produce, and aiding in distribution. We are still evaluating if this is an asset we should keep and maintain.

So many must be thanked for this continuing ministry. First and foremost, a huge thank you to Julie Vergin who was at the helm and masterminded NH through its first 2 1/2 years. Without her vision, heart, and countless hours of effort, NH would not exist. Julie has decided to step away as of October, which coincided with her annual migration to Florida. Thank you to Kim Haggan, who organized our efforts until her departure this spring. Thank you to Brittni Bronczyk, who has picked up the reins and now does our ordering, advertising, and organizing of volunteers. Thank you to OFLC's Council, especially Chandler Drummond, NH's liaison with the Council, NH's Board (now Committee) members (Mike Dickman, Reid Gilbert, Sandy Ziegler, Diane Dorrel, Gail Swanson, Pastor Aaron, and Brittni Bronczyk), and the many, MANY volunteers who continue to show up and put in the hours of work necessary to sort and pack produce, and distribute food to the community. Thanks too to you, our congregation, for supporting this ministry, and to our Building and Grounds Committee for sometimes aiding in the cleanup. As of January, 2022, Tim Johnson of Light of Christ, and Pam Dombeck of Saint Thomas will be joining the NH Committee. That will give us representation from each of our community partners in program planning.

We look forward to continuing our efforts in 2022. Even better would be a future where there was no need for these efforts. But until that time, we pray for guidance and resources to do our part to make sure all are fed.



FOUNDATION From Mark Nelson

On behalf of OFLC Foundation and in accordance with the foundation by-laws "The president shall also, at each annual meeting of OFLC, make a report to the members thereof on the affairs of the corporation including its financial status and its activities during the previous fiscal year.

For review the Foundation Incorporated in 2002. The purpose of the Foundation is to invest donated contributions in a financially responsible way with the goal of increasing the value. Using the investment gains or a portion of, to do charitable work in the Rockford community or as agreed upon by the Foundation directors.

The current directors include myself (Mark J. Nelson), Tom Lemmage (treasurer), Kathy Lunderby (secretary), and Ken Lunderby, Lynn Greseth, Becky Miller, Kelly Kinnan, Kelly Schumacher-Fuller, Kelly Roelofs, and Kristin Hoyles. Pastor Aaron Fuller in a much-appreciated advisory capacity.

Donations made by the Foundation in 2021 included the following:

03/21 River Works with Masonic Match	\$10,000
05/21 Grace Place in Montrose	\$ 1,000
10/21 Trunk or Treat	\$ 1,000
12/21 Love INC. Christmas Fund	\$ 500
12/21 Rockford Fire Auxiliary Christmas	\$ 500
12/21 Grace Place in Montrose	\$ 2,500

The account balance as of 12/31/2021 was \$ 201,068.75

\$ 28,127.13 of that total being money from OFLC that is being invested by the Foundation.

We also conducted a survey of the congregation to help us identify how the members want the Foundation to donate.

We developed a mission statement:

"Prayerfully receiving, investing and distributing the gifts of our community to support the mission of OFLC to build Christ's community through Relationships, Service, Teaching and Hospitality."

Thank you for your continued support.

Mark J. Nelson

Our Father's Lutheran Church Foundation
Sum of Checking And Investments 12 31 2020

2021 Annual Report
\$170,583.39

Checking account activity:		
01 01 2021	Balance	\$620.95
	Receipts:	
	Memberships	\$50.00
	Memorials	\$100.00
	In Honor	\$100.00
	Amazon Smile	\$74.84
	Donations	\$997.16
	Transfer from Waddell and Reed	\$46,682.57
	Transfers from Prudential	\$4,700.00
	OFLC Trunk or Treat Refund	\$1,000.00
	Disbursements:	
	Safe Deposit Box	-\$35.00
	Masonic RiverWorks Fund Raiser	-\$10,000.00
	GracePlace	-\$1,000.00
	Transfer to Prudential	-\$36,682.57
	OFCL Trunk or Treat	-\$2,000.00
	Rockford Fire Relief Association	-\$500.00
	Love Inc. Heartland	-\$500.00
	GracePlace	<u>-\$2500.00</u>
12/31/2021	Balance	\$1107.95
	Prudential:	
01/01/2021	Nancy Varner Fund	\$84,075.18
	Interest Nancy Varner Fund	\$10,902.12
04/01/2021	Fund #2	\$36,682.57
	Transfers from Fund #2 to checking	-\$4,700.00
	Interest Fund #2	\$1,353.25
06/21/2021	Fund #3 Air Conditioning	\$27,256.90
	Interest Fund #3	<u>\$870.23</u>
12/31/2021	Balance	\$156,440.25
	Thrivent:	
01/01/2021	Moderate Allocation Fund	\$30,062.71
	Interest Moderate Allocation Fund	\$3,599.53
	Diverse Income Plus Fund	\$9,280.67
	Interest Diverse Income Fund	<u>\$577.64</u>
12/31/2021	Balance	\$43,520.55
	Waddell & Reed:	
01/01/2021	Waddell & Reed Portfolio	\$46,543.88
	Interest Waddell & Reed Portfolio	\$138.69
	Transfer To Checking	<u>-\$46,682.57</u>
12/31/2021	Balance	\$0.00
	Sum of Checking and Investments 12/31/2021	\$201,068.75

Tom Lemmage Treasurer Our Father's Lutheran Church Foundation

BEDDING MINISTRY From Laurie Hanson

We made 4 visits for bedding and linens requests in 2021. Our requests, as well as Love INC requests in general, have decreased during the pandemic. We do visits as safely as possible. We continue to pick up selected bedding donations from Love INC in Delano. This year we were able to pull unneeded bedding from our supplies and give to other organizations. Thank you to all who have lovingly donated bedding and linens!

In 2022, we will fulfill our neighbor's needs as the year progresses, and continue to prayerfully discern if adjustments are needed with our Love INC ministry.

We celebrate being in an area network of 28 partner churches. We love when we can connect or reconnect with a neighbor and help with their needs, providing a little love! Love INC Bedding ministry contributes to our OFLC mission to Serve – a neighbor healing a broken hip, a single mom, an elderly neighbor unable to drive, and a family with young children and a dad working at home and a mom about to have another baby.

Fresh Start classes at Love INC have restarted, held at West Pointe Church in Delano, with neighbors learning about navigating life and faith. The Love INC Thrift stores in Dalano and Howard Lake also help the area community with needed items as well as provide a loving place to connect.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Hanson

MEN'S GROUP From Jim Lupino

If a man is going to win – not just survive – the battle of life, he must have a circle of good men around him to cheer him on and bandage his wounds. He needs the kind of friends that the paralyzed man had in Mark 2:1-13. "And they came, bringing to Jesus the paralytic, carried by four men. Being unable to get to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had dug an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying. And Jesus, seeing their faith said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'" (NASB translation)

Like all groups, 2021 was a challenging year for the Men's Group. The pandemic limited how and when we would meet. Yet, our group, while small, remained dedicated to meeting. We met over Zoom. When it was safe to do so, we met in person. Yet no matter how we met, we continued to support each other. We pushed and tested each other's understanding of the

weekly scripture readings. We talked about current events and our hopes and concerns for future generations. Yet we all share the same conviction: that we need Jesus, and the world sorely needs Jesus too. We also shared the value of being able to gather in person, especially over a cup of coffee and a good donut!

In 2022, the Men's Group is looking forward to continuing to meet on the first and third Saturdays of the month, from 730am-9am. We are also looking forward to resume holding an annual retreat in late March. All men are welcome! In addition, Pastor Aaron has also challenged our group to think about ways we can become more involved in the life and mission of Our Father's beyond our Saturday meetings. "Lone Ranger Christianity" doesn't work. We recognize that people of all ages need to see examples of faithful, male role models. We also recognize our faith grows as men when we engage those same people!

Jim Lupino

EVENTS from Shannon Sand & Amy Field

2021 finally allowed OFLC to gather together in person with various events that were meant to bring people together and build community again. As many of us on the OFLC planning committees liked to call it... "The Comeback Tour." Many of us recognized the need/want for bringing people back together again. Not only has Covid created physical challenges for many, but it has also created struggles for many with mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety due to isolation from others as we all abided by quarantines and closures. A large theme of what OFLC entails is building community and serving others. A way to have an extended church family you can laugh, conversate, support one another, and build trust.

The 2 bigger events held in 2021 was the Community "Trunk or Treat" event in October. It was an absolute gorgeous sunny day that was very well attended. The event included a live band, food truck, games, fall family photo backdrop, crafts, archery, bounce house, and car trunks to go trick or treating. This was a partnership event with the local Boy Scout Troop and we look forward to hosting that event again in 2022.

After the Rockford/Greenfield Community took a year off from Crow River Christmas, it was back in 2021 and a huge success with OFLC hosting a Crow River Christmas Market with lunch, large silent auction, Kids games and crafts, and live music by our very own Pastor Aaron and other musically talented congregation members. Some modifications were made due to Covid

still having an impact with a smaller version of a "Pre-Packaged" Cookie Walk, but all in all it was a wonderful time with about 200 visitors. A great way to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ!

In 2022, we hope to continue on providing community building events where all are welcome. Many ideas that will be in the works are a family movie night, creative opportunities to share with other members along the walls of our fellowship hall to get to know each other a little better, celebrating our 50th Anniversary with various events, Trunk or Treat, Crow River Christmas, and various events that will pop up as the year progresses. In typical OFLC style, we are all committed to serving others that will help bring people together.

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Romans 12:5

-Shannon Sand and Amy Field

GIVE TO THE MAX From Amy Field

Fall fundraiser adds nearly \$12k to offering plate

A sincere thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Give to the Max Day, an annual "giving holiday" encouraging Minnesotans to make donations to their favorite non-profits. Thanks to your generosity, nearly \$12,000 was raised over the course of two weeks, giving our church budget a healthy boost. That money will help Our Father's continues to show Christ's love to those in our church family and the surrounding community.

QUILTING/SEWING From Gail Swanson

The Quilting/Sewing group began meeting in person again in March of 2021 after a several month hiatus due to COVID. It was so good to be together again.

We completed 5 quilts for Vinland in 2021. Vinland is a drug and alcohol treatment center located in Loretto, and specializing in treating individuals with both addiction and mental health concerns. Each residential client receives a handmade quilt during his/her stay, and these quilts are given to the clients when leaving the program. Vinland's need for quilts is ongoing.

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.

Have an unfinished quilt top lying around? We'll do our best to turn it into a completed item for Vinland. The suggested completed size is 68" X 90" (Xtra long twin). We are also accepting cotton fabric you may have. Most of our quilts are made entirely of donated fabrics. Come join us if you have an interest in learning or sharing your sewing gifts. All skill levels are welcome.

RIVERWORKS THRIFT STORE VOLUNTEERS From Gail Swanson

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. 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.

To coordinate our volunteer times, you may contact Gail at dgswan00@msn.com. Or communicate directly with Riverworks by calling 763.477.5480.

RIVERWORKS FOOD SHELF From Gail Swanson

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 goods, and dairy cases.

This year operated under a slightly different system. Shoppers filled out their grocery lists from their cars. Workers then filled the list, weighed the cart, and pushed the filled cart to clients' cars. Food shelf clients then took it from there. This system worked great to serve the needs of our community, while keeping everyone safe.

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. Call Gail at 763.242.0351.

WCCA SENIOR MEALS From Gail Swanson

During 2021 we had the opportunity to deliver frozen meals to seniors in need in the western Hennepin County area. Twice each month, volunteers delivered about 14 frozen meals to each of 7 to 12 seniors. Meals were made available through Wright County Community Action and was an extension of a similar Wright County program. Unfortunately, this program ended the end of January of 2022. Thanks to those who have volunteered their time and effort to this program by calling the seniors, drawing up delivery lists, and driving to deliver these much-appreciated meals.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY



Today our congregation gathers in prayer and hope to begin another year of ministry. We bring with us the memory of a year like no other, even as we move into a future that we cannot yet imagine. Yet even now, as in every age, God is our refuge and strength. In times of plenty and want, in times of conflict and peace, in times of growing and pruning, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We remember the past year with lament and gratitude. We have lost so much, and so much still feels uncertain. We have also witnessed God's hand at work in new and unexpected ways. We delight at hidden seeds bearing surprising and wonderful fruit. When our own resources fail, when we cannot predict the future, when we must rely on God alone, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We celebrate this moment and the many ways God has held us together as a community. We give thanks for the gift of our church building and the welcome it provides, even as we bless God for the marvel of technology and the new bonds of connection it makes possible. When our bodies need sanctuary, when our minds need expanding, when your grace must transcend our limitations, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We look ahead to the road we will travel together this year. We anticipate and receive with joy the new gifts God's love has planned. We pray for the grace to let go of what has served its holy purpose. When we are trailblazers or followers, when we are seekers or visionaries, when we must walk by faith and not by sight, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

And so we pray: Grace our meeting, O God, with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the Spirit who has guided the church from the beginning, the Spirit of our risen Lord Jesus, the Spirit who sends us as healers and restorers of your beloved world. You are the source of our life together. You are the rock and cornerstone.

You have called us for such a time as this.

God of the Fertile Fields

1 God of the fer - tile fields, she - per of
2 We would be sown - and trees, hold - ing in
3 As grows the hid - den seed, to fruit that
4 God of the com - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread; forth from your
tree: from you all that you give; help us in
serves our need, so your reign grows; Let all our
Christ who died to make us one; we pledge our

lean - tows hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care
ful be used, no gift of yours a - based,
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed,
for you - ple on - 'ry - where, that all may be - store,
no hum - ble task re - fused, your love be - done,
Guide all we see and do, Your will be done.

All Creation Songs #1063

Text: Georgia Harkness, alt.; © 1925, rev. 1983 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Reprinted under license #89090721-1.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, in the public domain.

For further use of this hymn, including podcasting/streaming, please request permission from the copyright holder or report usage under a valid license.

**O God,
you have called your servants
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden,
through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with good courage,
not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading us
and your love supporting us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen. (ELW, p. 317)**

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](#).)

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