

reflections

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

THE EVERY DAY CHURCH FOR EVERYONE

Central Lutheran Church Annual Meeting of the Congregation

In person or online via the live stream link
at www.centralmpls.org

11:30 a.m., February 13, 2022

AGENDA

Lisa Beane, President

Welcome and Overview of the Meeting
and Logistics for Communication

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Approval of Minutes
August 22, 2021, Special Congregational
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2021, Annual Meeting Minutes

President's Report

Rostered Ministers' Reports
Pastors
Deacon

Written Reports to Note

Information Items
Bell Tower and Historic Sanctuary Entrance
Lighting Project
Baptismal Font Project

Action Items
Treasurer's Report
2022 Budget
Nominating Committee Report and Elections

Words of Gratitude, Closing Prayer and Benediction

Adjournment

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Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting

Virtual Annual Meeting of the Congregation, February 14, 2021, that was held online on Facebook and via the livestream link at www.centralmpls.org.

The Annual Meeting of Central Lutheran Church was held on Sunday, February 14, 2021. The 2020 Annual Report was available to Central members online via the church's website.

Call to Order

Congregation President Lisa Beane called the meeting to order at noon, noting the 117 IP addresses on livestream and 35 on Facebook, which surpasses the constitution quorum of 100.

Opening Prayer

The meeting began with an opening prayer led by Pastor Stephanie Friesen.

Approval of Minutes

Congregation President Lisa Beane presented the February 9, 2020 Annual Meeting minutes.

A motion to approve these minutes was made and seconded by email and phone. A mailed ballot was sent to all eligible Central members on Monday, February 15, 2021. Two hundred and ninety-seven votes to affirm were received.

President's Report

Congregation President Lisa Beane shared highlights from her report. The Congregation President's report can be found on page 6 of the 2020 Annual Report.

Rostered Ministers' Reports

Pastor Peter shared highlights of the written reports from the Pastors and Deacon. He also explained the Comparative Church Statistics and which statistics were deeply impacted by the pandemic. These reports can be found beginning on page 7 of the 2020 Annual Report.

Pastor Peter encouraged all members to read the other written reports found in the 2020 Annual Report.

Nominating Committee Report

On behalf of the Nominating Committee and as affirmed by the Council, President Lisa submitted the following nominations for leadership: Council (two-year term) – Congregation Vice-President Jeff Block; Congregation Council Treasurer Karl Starr; Council at-Large Members

Kirsten Hash and Ann Oyen; Nominating Committee (three-year term) – David Brenke, Matt Grahn, Cathy Egan; Audit Committee (two-year term) – Aaron Sankey, Mary Farmer. The Synod Assembly Voting Members – Christa Olson, Karen Knox, Judy Hedman, Brian McKinley. This report appears on pages 16-17 of the 2020 Annual Report.

According to the Constitution, President Lisa asked for any nominations by email or phone three times, of which there were none.

A motion to approve the full slate of candidates was made and seconded by email and phone. A mailed ballot was sent to all eligible Central members on Monday, February 15, 2021. Two hundred ninety-nine votes to affirm were received.

Treasurer's Report and 2021 Budget

For travelling Treasurer John Olson, Obie Holmen, director of finance, presented an overview of the financial reports: Financials: Assets and Liabilities, Proposed Budget, 2020 Designated Fund Summary, and Mission Forward Campaign Recap. The financial reports begin on page 21 of the 2020 Annual Report. A more detailed presentation of the financial reports was given at a virtual Budget Meeting two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting, for which all members were invited to view via livestream or Facebook.

A motion to approve the 2020 Treasurer's Report and Financials and the 2021 Budget was made and seconded by email and phone. A mailed ballot was sent to all eligible Central members on Monday, February 15, 2021. Two hundred and ninety-five votes to affirm were received.

Prayer and Benediction

Pastor Melissa closed the meeting with prayer and a benediction.

Adjournment

President Lisa Beane adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

For closing and sending, a recording of Deacon Mark Sedio playing his setting of "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty", published by Augsburg Fortress, on the Casavant organ was presented.

*Respectfully submitted,
Pat Hansen, recording for Jen Surla, Secretary*



Minutes of the Special Meeting, August 22, 2021

*A Special Meeting of Central Lutheran Church
was held in-person on Sunday, August 22, 2021.*

Call to Order

Congregation Vice-President Jeff Block called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., noting that the number in attendance surpassed the constitution quorum of 100. The purpose of this special meeting was for the proposed Bell Tower and Historic Church Lighting Project and for the proposed Baptismal Font Project.

Bell Tower & Historic Church Light Project

David Rodriguez, Director of Facilities, presented information on this project, as well as how the project will be funded.

A motion to approve the Bell Tower and Historic Church Lighting Project as presented and funded was made and seconded.

A unanimous voice vote by all in attendance was received.

Baptismal Font Project

Pastor Marissa Sotos, on behalf of the Font Team, presented information on this project, including the process, theology, tradition, hospitality, renderings of the design and the financial overview.

A motion to approve the Baptismal Font Project was made and seconded. A voice vote by all in attendance was received, with one dissenting vote.

Adjournment

Congregation Vice-President Jeff Block adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Pat Hansen, recording for Jen Surla, Secretary*



Pastor Peter Nycklemoe

REFLECTIONS

"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:12-13



Some days it is comforting to look at your reflection in the mirror. The comfort is felt because you see yourself as a child of God, the reflection of one who is loved. On other days you look at the reflection and wonder. Maybe you wonder about your recent haircut or perhaps you see the reflection and the changes that happen as you age. Perhaps the wondering is if you are loved and what it means to live and grow as a child of God.

In this ongoing pandemic, there are many reflections in our mirrors. There are days of hope and of deep concern. The promise is yours, that the reflection you see in the mirror is of one who is loved by God, always. It is a love that holds us when we "see dimly and know only in part." It is a love that knows you fully, abides with you and continually gives you the gifts of faith, hope and love. It is the love of God in Jesus Christ that reminds you, baptized child of God, that when you look in the mirror morning and night the words are yours to speak: "I am a beloved child of God, baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." God's love in Jesus Christ holds fast. God's love in Jesus is the greatest of gifts and it will sustain and guide, even if we feel that we cannot see how all this will turn out or when we will return to some sense of normal.

What happens when we look through the eyes of faith, given to us in Jesus Christ? How do we receive glimpses of seeing "face to face?" In the life together that God gives to us in this faith community, I offer these glimpses of God's love and the accompanying gifts of faith and hope. With two glimpses I will offer some added reflection.

Glimpse One: Worship in person and online is where we are bound together as the body of Christ.

Glimpse Two: Faith Formation opens us to the creative ways to grow in faith together.

Glimpse Three: Community is experienced in person and online.

Glimpse Four: Generosity creates a healthy congregation where we share gifts of time, abilities, and finances.

Glimpse Five: God's welcome guides the planning and invitations as we look to a new normal.

Glimpse Six: What is God calling us to explore as we live with the pandemic?

The Congregation Council has continued the work of the strategic planning team, all rooted in previous congregational surveys and listening sessions. Last spring, we gathered for "safe at church" gatherings and these affirmed our shared hopes for life together after the pandemic subsides. There are five key initiatives that the new Council will pick up and invite us to explore:

Belonging: intentional offerings for members of the congregation to grow in relationships with one another and with God.

Community: renewing awareness of the needs in this community and how we are called to see, walk with, welcome and offer God's love to those at the margins.

Equipping: new ways to invite, encourage and empower members to share their gifts and find their place in this faith community.

Telling the story: renewing the ways God calls us to tell the story of ministry and mission with the congregation, downtown and in the Twin Cities.

Virtual life together: learning from this experience for our virtual life together and the ways we can strengthen virtual community.

Glimpse Seven: Thank you

Thank you for your faithfulness and all the ways you respond to God’s call to faith, hope and love. Thank you for the gift of sabbatical this fall. I returned renewed and ready for ministry and mission. In the return, I glimpse that Central is in a place of healing. The past seven years together has brought times of joy and celebration, frustration, and grief. God provides the healing and calls each of us to the ways of forgiveness, love, kindness, and compassion, all for the health and wholeness of this congregation. I am humbled by the remarkable gifts that God provides and all the ways you walk the ways of grace.

Thank you to the Congregation Council leaders. Thank you to President Lisa Beane, who could never have imagined that her two years of leadership would be in a pandemic. Thank you to the leaders who complete their terms: Jen Surla, Roberta Groening and Paul Troselius, for

your faithfulness and dedication. Thank you to all who serve on Personnel, Fiscal and Property, Audit, Generosity, Global Mission, Communications Task Force, the strategic plan work, and the Prayer Ministry Team. It is a joy to serve with you in this shared work.

Thank you to my staff colleagues, every one of them. You know how remarkable they are in their faithfulness and the joy they bring to this shared life together every day. For this annual report I specifically thank Obie Holmen for his seven-and-one-half years of service as our Finance Director. Your wise and thoughtful leadership has blessed this community. Blessings to you and Lynn in retirement and I will wait for a while before I ask you to serve in a new way.

This pandemic continues to dim our sight, and yet by faith in Jesus Christ we are known and do know the promise: “faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.” ❖

Church Statistics

Once again, this Annual Report is impacted by the pandemic. We do not have a way to truly show the comparative statistics because so many indicators of our life together were suspended for part of 2021 and many indicators continue to be deeply impacted. This report will communicate life passages the online worship averages; the in person averages for the six month period, July 1- December 30, and a snapshot of hybrid totals.

Life Passages	Baptisms	Confirmations	Weddings	New Members	Funerals
2021/2020/2019	11/3/26	5/6/9	6/6/8	19/25/48	9/18/25

Worship	Weekend Average	Triduum	Easter Weekend	Christmas Eve and Day
2021/2020/2019	529/650/543	566/1030/651	896/1560/1710	1714/1205/1729

Notes:

The first number is for 2021 and the second number was for 2020 in the depth of the pandemic. The IP addresses for the live stream through the website use the multiplier of 1.5 to consider households where two or more worship on the same IP address. The numbers for 2021 and 2020 do not include Facebook Live numbers. Facebook Live tends to have people join and leave the feed during the services, where the live stream IP address tends to remain from beginning to end.



2021 Historian Report

January 2021

- In-person daily prayer with Holy Communion held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
- Narrative Bible Study with the Preacher resumes on Zoom
- Empowering Conversations resume their monthly meetings on Zoom.
- Zoom Prayer Retreat led by Pastors Peter and Kathie Nycklemoe (1/30)

February 2021

- 2021 Budget meeting on Zoom (2/7)
- Annual Meeting (2/14) – The congregation approved the 2021 Budget and the Nominating Committee’s ballot for Leaders and Officers of the Congregation. Written ballots were sent to members for voting.
- Ash Wednesday Online Worship (2/17)
- Daily Lenten email devotionals written by members
- Mid-Week Lenten Worship and Baptism/ Bible Study available on Zoom (2/24)
- Associate Director of Music Issac Drewes participates in Organs of the Twin Cities, streaming recital series (2/28)

March 2021

- First of four vaccination clinics (3/4)
- Lenten Prayer Stations offered (3/16)
- Winter Goods Drive for Align Minneapolis
- Palm Sunday Weekend Online Worship (3/27-28)

April 2021

- Holy Week/Three Days/Easter Online Worship (4/1-4)
- Daily Prayer with Holy Communion continues in the Season of Easter
- Columbarium’s second wall installed

May 2021

- Twelve Safe at Church Gatherings are scheduled throughout the month of May in the Great Room for holy conversation.
- Confirmation Weekend (5/22) – five youth affirm their baptisms
- Pentecost Online Worship (5/22-23) with Sunday School families drive-through

June 2021

- In-Person Worship resumes with phased-in return (6/20)

July 2021

- Wednesday Bible Study resumes at 11 a.m. (7/14)
- Summer Book Conversation on Anne Lamott’s “Dusk, Night, Dawn” (7/14 and 7/21)
- Summer carillon recitals and food truck dining begins for four Sundays, noon, north plaza/patio. (7/18)
- Monday Community Worship and Meal resume (7/19)
- Nineteen new members welcomed (7/25)
- Summer Bible Study, “I’ve been meaning to ask” begins for five weeks (7/28)

August 2021

- Celebration of Charles Smith’s 25 years of service (8/14-15)
- Special congregational meeting (8/22) – the congregation approved a recommended bid to replace the lighting for the bell tower, historic sanctuary entrances and other external lights. Also approved was the new Baptismal Font project and funding.
- Columbarium Project Dedication (8/22)
- OWLS Gatherings resume in-person (8/31)

September 2021

- Rally Weekend (9/11-12) – In-person worship with Central Choir and Handbell Choir back
- Sunday Morning Adult Forum resume (9/12)
- Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Preacher and Weekly Narrative Lectionary

- Bible Study resume
- Deeper Life with God: Journeying through the Sacred Geometry of the Enneagram Prayer Retreat (9/18)
- Celebration and Blessing of Pastor Jeffrey and his new call (9/18)
- Pastor Peter leaves for sabbatical (9/25)
- Isaac Drewes in concert at Central (9/26)
- StreetSong starts its seventh year (9/27)

October 2021

- Rev. Brian Gutzmann joins Pastoral Care staff
- Adult Forums with Dr. Marty Stortz begin (10/3)
- Flu Shot and Covid Vaccine Clinic (10/25)

November 2021

- All Saints' Weekend (11/6-7)
- Global Mission Weekend with Carl and Joy Follingstad and Generosity Devotional "God's Word does not return empty" begins (11/13-14)
- Sabbath to End Homelessness (11/21-22)
- Thanksgiving Community Meal served (11/22)
- Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Temple Israel (11/25)
- Pastor Peter returns from sabbatical (11/30)

December 2021

- Augsburg Advent Vespers – A Virtual Experience (12/3)
- Generosity Special Adult Forum (12/5)
- Annual Generosity Ingathering Weekend (12/11-12)
- Central Choir's Advent Choral Presentation (12/12)
- 37th Annual Homeless Memorial March/Service (12/16)
- Healing Prayers Resume after each worship (12/18-19)
- Christmas Community Meal served (12/20)
- Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Worship (12/24-25)



Congregation President, Lisa Beane

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. (Romans 5:1-5.)

As much as 2020 was a lesson in humility, 2021 turned out to be a lesson in perseverance. As wonderful as it has been to be able to resume more of our activities in-person, we have had to press on through many disruptions and continue to adapt to uncertain, sometimes frightening, circumstances. Our Central community has been a great source of comfort and strength to me over these last several months, and I hope the same is true for you.

Despite the challenges of these last two years, signs of Central's strength are all around. We have continued to welcome new members to the congregation throughout the pandemic, which to me says that people are attracted to the work God is doing through Central and want to be part of it. All of Central's ministries have adapted and remained vital during the pandemic, which is a credit to our rostered leaders, staff, and volunteers. Perhaps most importantly, we have continued to serve our neighbors in need

through the community meal, the Free Store, and the Augsburg Central Health Commons. And even though we have faced some significant financial headwinds, Central is in a strong position going into 2022. Because of the congregation's continued generosity, we have even been able to move forward with long-planned projects to repair the bell tower lighting and create a new baptismal font. As I said in my report last year, Central continues to thrive because of all the things — large and small — each of you is doing to contribute to the vitality of our faith community.

The Congregation Council has been planning for Central's future by focusing on creating opportunities for members to find deeper engagement with each other and with our downtown community. In the coming year, be on the lookout for new programs designed to foster connections among members.

I am deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to serve Central as Council president these last two years. Thank you for your prayers and words of support. I appreciate the grace you have shown and each other as we have navigated the uncertainties of this pandemic. I look forward to discovering what God has in store for Central together.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 15:13.)

Lisa Beane



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*



Pastor Melissa Pohlman



The Restoration Center functioned at full tilt in 2021. This could not have been done without the flexibility and leadership of Dwayne Wright, Freddy Coleman and Karen Knox. They embody Christ's love for every person who walks through our doors.

We returned to serving the Monday community meal to folks in person while we continued the takeout meals. Being able to provide lunch both ways helped the community in a way safest to them. I am thankful to the meal volunteers who prepare and serve lunch. None of our meals would happen without the good work of Mark Carroll, Adam Koland and Sherry Shannon. With in-person dining back, the Monday worship service restarted. It is wonderful to hear Ben Longman and his dad Kevin's amazing original bluegrass music before worship.

The Free Store continued to provide needed clothing and household items for folks. They have continued to be flexible, meeting people where they are. We hosted several "Christmas" events. We pulled the racks out and set up outside in good weather, or in the Great Room and invited folks to shop. It got donations to people who need them. We were able to increase our donation hours to a more pre-pandemic availability. Our Free Store volunteers were amazing as they balance the needs of guests with safety for all.

The Augsburg Central Health Commons was our rock as Dr. Katie Clark made sure every Monday and Thursday people got hygiene and health care needs met. She delivered our Monday meal to folks in the near north encampment, coordinated Covid vaccination clinics in March and April, and booster shots in December. Over 500 Covid vaccinations were given at church. She also hosted our yearly flu shot clinic. This partnership has been helpful and timely.

Street Voices of Change (SVoC) met every Thursday morning as we worked on implementation of our Shelter Residents Bill of Rights. David Hewitt, the director of the Office to End Homelessness of Hennepin County, met with SVoC to hear what is happening at shelters. SVoC hosted a forum for candidates running for a city seat. SVoC started a second meeting this year at the Basilica on Wednesdays. In September they

celebrated their 5th anniversary.

Align Central, our advocacy group (formerly known as Heading Home Central), worked to educate and organize the congregation around ending homelessness, in cooperation with the other Align Minneapolis congregations. Cooperative efforts revolved around seasonal campaigns including collecting school supplies and gift cards for the families at the People Serving People family shelter. In October, Align Central Team arranged for us to attend the play, "Not in Our Neighborhood." They also helped coordinate worship for the Sabbath to End Homelessness in November.

The Garden Ministry Team beautified our spaces in the growing months and filled pots with trees and decorations for Christmas.

The Fine Arts Ministry Team has been hard at work. Last year they brought back the art to our building, created a database, safely stored our collection and are beginning to rotate it. The team is grateful to Dave Rodriguez for installing our new hanging system and teaching us the magic of laser levels. We received several lovely gifts of art this year.

Empowering Conversations has continued to focus on the ways God has made humanity beautifully diverse. From our greater understanding of our individuality we can start to see how we create cultures in our institutions and how we function in ways that promote health and welcoming as a community of faith and ways that cultures can be exclusive or harmful to people who do not identify with that culture. From our work together in 2021 around culture, we hope to discern the work that God is calling us to.

Finally, 2021 was the year in which I had surgery to remove two hepatic adenomas. They were discovered the first year I came to Central, so it was good to receive your care and love while I healed. I no longer worry about what might happen, as I have received the best care possible. I am grateful to you all, the personnel committee and my colleagues for picking up my work while I recovered.

It is an honor to serve the people of Central and our wider community. I am looking forward to a day with less Covid and more gatherings.

Pastor Melissa



Pastor Stephanie Friesen

Don't Hesitate

If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give into it. There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be. We are not wise, and not very often kind. And much can never be redeemed. Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back, that sometimes something happens better than all the riches or power in the world. It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins. Anyway, that's often the case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb.

Mary Oliver



In the expressions of this poem by Mary Oliver, I am reminded of the roller coaster of experiences we've encountered in the past two years. Certainly, we have experienced the sting of destruction whether it's due to the pandemic, an insurrection in Washington DC or continued systemic racism, yet there is hope. As Oliver so beautiful says, "life has possibility left.

Joy is not made to be a crumb."

We have seen the possibilities of life again and again here at Central – moments of abundant joy – and here are a few highlights from the formation cluster:

The Caring Crew reached out over a thousand times between January and December with greetings of friendship, care and hope. They signed valentines, mailed prayer squares knitted members of Central, delivered Easter cookies and Christmas poinsettias to members from Chaska to North Oaks. I am grateful for the commitment and care shared by the Caring Crew each month – writing notes and visiting our faithful members in their homes – sharing the love of Jesus Christ with neighbors and friends.

The middle and high school students collectively paddled almost 100 miles this summer on Rainy Lake, Lake Kabetogama and the Flambeau River. Over 30 students with adults from Central traveled with our partners from Amnicon for six days in safe and wonderfully planned trips. Students this year created their own 'villages' of sleeping hammocks that hung between the trees in the beautiful wilderness of Voyageur National Park and northern Wisconsin. It was a privilege to escape from the city for a week of timelessness in the woods where God's presence is as close as your breath.

Our Sunday morning faith formation for students ages 3-18 continues in a hybrid format. Now that many of our 5-11 year-olds have received two vaccines, we anticipate a slow and steady return to in-person learning.

The OWLS – our senior ministry adventurers – started up in August. Each month we gathered over 50 people to take field trips of all kinds.

Life Passages is another area of focus in the formation cluster. With Michael Dee's help, we celebrated joy and new beginnings in many baptisms and weddings, and we tended to the promise of eternal life in funerals and memorial services. Navigating 'safe at church' protocols were sometimes complicated as our gatherings increased in size, and I am grateful for the staff and volunteers who give so willingly of their time and talents to welcome members, guests and visitors to the church.

Looking forward, I'm excited about the ELCA National Youth Gathering in July. Thousands of students and leaders will be in Minneapolis for this amazing event. Twenty-five of our high school students are registered and it will be a transforming experience for the youth. I'm also inspired by the opportunity to learn more and discover ways to continue building virtual learning experiences for students of all ages.

It is a blessing and a privilege to serve here at Central.

*Peace,
Pastor Stephanie*



Deacon Cantor Mark Sedio



2021. Strange indeed. We began the year sheltering against a global pandemic. Vaccinations and spring and summer weather meant more outdoor possibilities and brought hope and in this we were able to re-gather, and to worship together in person. Very hard to believe we are still battling variants which may dampen some of the things we're able to do, but hasn't dampened our connectedness and our life together. We survive. But in all of this – the world and church – seem somehow to have changed. Zoom

Bible studies and meetings, streamed services; these are likely (in some form) here to stay. The greatest joy for me this year has been the ability to come together to make music and to sing. Lutherans sing – even when necessarily masked. It's who we are and who we've been from the early days of the Reformation.

Here are some highlights that took place in this extraordinary year:

Musical Ensembles: From January through May the Central Choir met regularly by Zoom. This allowed us to do some creative "rehearsing" in preparation for monthly (and sometimes more) virtual choir offerings we recorded and put together for our streamed worship services. A huge thanks to Isaac Drewes (assisted by section leaders Froya Olson and David Gindra) who, through their technological know-how, put all this together. An in-person potluck the choir held in the Great Room/North Plaza in June proved to be the first time many of us had seen each other (physically) in months. There, spread out on the North Plaza, we sang together for the first time since March 2020. The choir began in-person rehearsals at the beginning of September and immediately began participating in our 10:30 a.m. worship services. (Vaccinations and masks required.) Unable to use the choir loft due to poor ventilation, we spread out in chairs and pews in the west transept. A huge thank you to our four great section leaders Froya, Robin, Bill and David who provided vocal music (exclusively) for the first six months of this year then continued through the remainder of the year providing not only leadership in the Central

Choir but also solos for the 8:30 a.m. Sunday and 5 p.m Saturday services. We are truly blessed to have them with us. (For information on both the Bell Choir and the Choristers see Associate Musician Isaac Drewes' report.)

Worship: We will continue our journey with the Narrative Lectionary through Easter with its focus on readings from the Gospel of John.

During the early part of the year brief, small in-person communion services were offered during the week. In July we returned gradually to in-person Saturday and Sunday worship still retaining our online streaming option. The in-person online hybrid, combined with various COVID precautions, necessitated some creative restructuring of our usual services. Congregational singing continues to be somewhat limited, movement in the worship space reduced (in pew communion, offering plates are not passed), communion elements prepackaged, offering taken at the door, new usher responsibilities, etc.

Musical Instruments: After 15 years of caring for our organs, David Molvik announced his retirement. Many thanks to David! We are very lucky to have contracted with Russell Draeger who now oversees all maintenance on both our Casavant and Van Daalen organs. Russell is a graduate of St. Olaf College and holds an advanced organ degree from the Eastman School of Music. Since coming to work on various organ issues in February we have come to understand why he is in such high demand in the Twin Cities organ world. Due to the prolonged US/Canadian border closing this year, technicians from Casavant were unable to make a proposed visit. Russell (along with Isaac, Mark Kieffer, Dave Rodriguez, Pastor Peter and myself) met twice with members of the Casavant crew via Zoom to inspect the internal areas of the organ (using their cell phones), diagnose and discuss solutions. Some work requiring scaffolding in the choir area is scheduled to begin very soon. Thanks also go to Central member Ken Olson who takes care of our four pianos.

Other: In addition to my role as Cantor my duties as Deacon expanded over the past year: overseeing various areas in our worship life, being a part of the baptismal font project, preaching at our midweek virtual service on

March 10, serving on the Candidacy Committee of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA. In addition to the many pieces I've composed for use at Central, I completed two commissions for congregations as well as a larger one that will be premiered at the 2022 national convention of the American Guild of Organists in July. It is also my honor to have been appointed university organist at Augsburg University effective January 3, 2021. My major responsibilities are playing for large college events in Hoversten Chapel (homecoming, convocation, baccalaureate) almost all of which have been virtual (recorded) and, most prominently, serving on the planning team and as organist for Advent Vespers.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our exceedingly wonderful staff, my rostered leader

colleagues, Associate Musician Isaac Drewes, our section leaders, members of the Central Choir, Handbell Choir, Choristers and – most of all – you, the Central congregation for making what I do an absolute joy.

Soli Deo gloria! Amen!!



Issac Drewes, Associate Director of Worship and Music

This has been a year of transitions in the music department. In January 2021, Adult Choir and Choristers met via Zoom as I helped put together virtual choir offerings, and the Bell Choir did not meet at all. Since that time, Bell Choir began rehearsing in March and the Adult Choir in September. Recently, the Omicron variant has put a pause on Adult Choir, though bells continue since ringing is a lower-risk activity. The Choristers remained online throughout 2021 since no vaccine was available for them until recently.



The Bell Choir has enriched our worship at both Sunday services. We added several new members; some had prior bell experience, some did not. We still have room for more ringers. The group is open to anyone with basic music reading skills, with or without prior bell-ringing experience. Rehearsals are Tuesday nights, 7-8 p.m. If you are interested please email me.

The Choristers continued to meet via Zoom, learning music and music theory, as well as completing virtual choir projects. Despite the challenges, this has been a wonderful time of musical growth for them. The Omicron variant paused

our planned January return to in-person Choristers, but we look forward singing together when it is safe. As our Choristers program develops, we are grounded in truth that children are not only the future of the church; children are the church, here and now. We live into this through faith formation, music education and worship leadership.

This September, Central Lutheran took the step of affiliating with the Royal School of Church Music in America. This is an ecumenical, nation-wide organization of Chorister programs which has its own music curriculum, "Voice for Life," with milestones as singers progress. Choristers is a wonderful opportunity for elementary and middle school students to grow musically and spiritually, and to have fun together. Once we are able to return to in-person rehearsals, we meet on Wednesdays, 5:45-6:45 p.m. For more information, please email me.

I am excited for these music ministries to grow and mature, and to contribute to the worship life of our congregation. It is a joy to serve and worship here at Central.

*God bless,
Isaac Drewes*



Dave Rodriguez, Director of Facilities



Together, we have taken many steps this past year on the road to returning to normal. I am eager to continue this journey with you as we, as much as possible, get back to the way we remember our shared church life. I am grateful for having everyone back at worship and am happy to see concerts and outside events returning to our building, as well. I would like to thank our leadership for navigating this difficult path as they do their best to keep everyone safe while we make our way through these uncharted waters. I would also like to express my appreciation for all of you for doing your part to keep the church a safe place for us all.

This year, Minneapolis will be hosting the National Youth Gathering. This will be an amazing opportunity to be part of an event that probably will not return to our area for a very long time. With our newly remodeled space, we will be able to host a number of Gathering events, as

well as provide support to the organizing team. I know it will be an exciting and busy time for us.

Throughout the pandemic, we have stayed busy with many building projects. This past year, two of the most notable projects including the relighting of the historic bell tower and designing and installing the new baptismal font. The bell tower lighting project will be completed soon, and the font project will be wrapping up around Easter. These are remarkable projects that will continue to be enjoyed for years to come.

I am so appreciative of all of you for the support we receive. The volunteers are amazing – they so freely share their gifts of décor, gardening, finance, worship and so much more. When I take a moment to think about all the gifts of time, experience and talent that is given so generously, I can feel how Central is a living breathing community here for everyone to be part of, and for it to be a part of us all.

With gratitude
Dave Rodriguez



Mark Carroll, Food Service Coordinator



When 2021 began, it looked like everything was getting better. Everyone was excited to put Covid-19 behind us. Then the Delta variant started to come fast and quick. With everyone following all the procedures, we managed to keep everyone safe and we continue to do that with the Omicron variant.

Sunday and Monday meals have been almost back to normal. Monday is around 50 percent of early capacity for takeout and 50 percent for indoor seating. Street Voices breakfast on Thursdays are going well.

We also began to do meals for funerals again and the funeral volunteers were happy to be back. Other ministries returned to church for more in person meetings.

Adam, Sherry and myself are doing well. Although the path forward from 2021 may

feel uncertain, one thing has never been clearer: we have come together, we work together and we support each other however we can.

God bless you all,
Mark



Sara Masters, Director of Communications

It's that time again for the annual meeting. At least the pandemic didn't get rid of the annual report. This is a time to look back and then ahead. But first, I am going to look ahead to 2022 and then back at 2021.



The coming year brings a new job for me with new challenges. I must let go of my communications duties and take on new responsibilities as director for operations and finance. This will not be easy, but I'm up for the challenge. I have been working in the communications realm for more than 23 years. It's time to hand the baton off to someone new. They will have fresh and new ideas and will do things different than me. The congregation will benefit, I'm sure. All are welcome to visit me. I'll be in my same office.

In 2021 we got back into the groove of coming to church for work and in-person worship. Throughout 2020 and into 2021, the *Spirit* was in electronic form, and came back into physical form in June. A shift has happened where electronic communications (i.e. enews) has become a very important part of communicating our life together. Along with the livestream, the enews and website are essential in staying connected to each other. I foresee this continuing into the near future.

Many people think of 2021 as the new normal. I see it as nothing is normal; nothing is the same and we can't count on reaching a "normal" for a long time. We are still in that flexible mode and will be that way for a while. Hopefully next year's annual report will not have the word "pandemic" in it.



Dwayne Wright, Director of Security



Despite the challenges created by the pandemic, it was great to see a lot of you who decided to come back to worship during these tough times. And I miss the ones who decided to take a step back for a while. We are still able to do God's work by having the Free Store open on Mondays, Wednesday and Thursdays. And it is open by appointment only on Tuesdays for anyone who doesn't feel comfortable or can't be around crowds for medical reasons. We are also serving the community Monday meal and we have to go bag lunches available. In 2021

a few of us on staff were able to have CPR and AED training for adult child and infant.

I would like to give special thanks to security officer Freddy Coleman for all his hard work, and the volunteers of the Free store, Augsburg Central Health Commons, and the volunteers who help serve the meal on Mondays.

*Peace,
Dwayne*
❖

Columbarium Association

In 2020, a decision was made to increase the capacity of the Columbarium, and an order was placed for the completion of a second wall. The order also included the purchase of matching marble for a third wall. The decision to complete the second wall coordinated nicely with the remodeling of the lower narthex. In March 2021, the south wall was completed, adding 162 niches to the original west wall and bringing the total to 306 niches. A dedication of the new wall was held at worship services on Sunday, August 22, 2021. Members and friends were invited to visit the Columbarium on that day.

The Columbarium Board strives to support a dignified, elegant and peaceful resting place in the care of the church. In 2021, dimmable LED

lighting and motion detectors were added to the Columbarium. Two sconces from the old building have been refurbished and placed on either side of the entrance. We continue discussion for future enhancements.

We encourage you to visit the Columbarium and view the new wall and the enhancements. Information about policies, procedures and pricing are available on Central's website. The Columbarium Board members, Pastor Peter and Michael Dee are eager to visit with you and answer your questions.

The care and support we have experienced by our beloved Central Lutheran Church in life can continue in our death as our body is put to rest in the Columbarium.

Columbarium Milestones

June 22, 2014	Annual Congregational Meeting founding resolution
December 9, 2014	Columbarium first unit construction completed
December 28, 2014	Columbarium dedication
January 2015	Columbarium Fund established as a stand-alone account
March 15, 2015	First entombment
March 2021	Columbarium Second wall construction completed
August 22, 2021	Columbarium expansion dedication (162 new niches on south wall)
306	Number of total niches in Columbarium
65	Number of niches reserved in total as of December 31, 2021
7	Number of entombments in this calendar year (since January 1, 2021)
53	Number of entombments in total as of December 31, 2021

Entombments in this program year

We look for the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come. Amen.

These bodies have been taken into the care of the Church until the Day of Resurrection:

+ LeRoy Larson	+ Joan Nelson
+ Philip Quanbeck	+ Nancy and Robert Dillon
+ Gloria Frestedt	+ Carol Schultz

Financial Statement – CLC Columbarium Association

Opening Balance	\$69,410.87
Niche Purchases	+ 8,900.00
Construction of second wall & purchase of matching third wall	- 50,059.71
Other Expenses	- 3,695.00
Closing Balance on 12/31/2021	\$24,556.16

*Respectfully Submitted, Joyce Anderson and Michael Dee
For the CLC Columbarium Association*



Central Lutheran Church Foundation

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Central Lutheran Church Foundation once again met on Zoom. The annual meeting was held May 19, 2021, and the special meeting was held Dec. 8, 2021.

Since the market value of the Foundation's portfolio increased substantially, Treasurer Jim Heintz moved to increase the distribution percentage to Central Lutheran Church by another one-half of a percent. This would increase the percentage distribution from 5.75 percent to 6.25 percent. The Capital Campaign amount approved earlier, over a three-year period, was .50 percent. So that brought the total distribution rate to 6.75 percent. The increased amount will begin Jan. 1, 2022. After board member Ron Fiscus seconded the motion, Jim Heintz gave a thorough analysis of the distribution concepts and after discussion, the board passed the motion passed unanimously.

It was reported that the amount gifted to the Foundation, through memorials, cash gifts and bequests, for 2020 was \$981,778, and the amount through November 2021 was \$1,094,055. These were very significant increases compared to the past several years. The much-appreciated gifts will help with the distribution rate to the church as well as giving aid to the mission of the church in perpetuity.

The five committees of the Foundation met, usually by Zoom, to complete board business.

Three forums were sponsored by the Foundation at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. The Oct. 3 forum included a panel of four experts addressing the

problem of mental health during the pandemic. On Oct. 31, Jeanne Bain led an intriguing presentation, "Talking about Death Won't Kill You", and Pastor Stephanie concluded the series Nov. 7, with, "End of Life Funeral Planning." These forums were well attended and highly rated.

The new website was completed with development committee members' many volunteer hours. The site is at: centrallutheranfoundation.org.

Another Surviving Spouse's gathering was held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Dec.12. There was good conversation and fellowship, and the luncheon were a success.

Inez Bergquist resigned from the position of Development Director this summer. We will wait to see what happens with the ongoing pandemic to address the need to fill this position.

The investment policy was updated this past year by the Investment Committee and approved by the board.

GS Investments continued to do a great job handling the Foundation's investment portfolio. They met quarterly with the Investment Committee.

Even with fluctuations of the market, political upheaval, pandemic and inflation, our portfolio continues to push upward. For this we are most thankful.

*Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie J. Weisenburger, President*



Tree of Life Lutheran Church

Tree of Life made some big moves in the last year. We moved off of Zoom and back to in person worship in June. We spent the summer deciding if we wanted to return to our rental space in the North Loop neighborhood or somewhere new. After trying three different locations, we decided in September on Twin Ignition Startup Garage in North East Minneapolis. Twin Ignition is a tech startup incubator and coworking space owned by Central member Seth Peter who we are delighted to have as our new landlord. Northeast and the Twin Ignition building has given us a boost in visitors and a beautiful creative space to feel at home.



Another move we made is releasing our original worship service, "Brightness and Shadows Evening Prayer." From idea to launch date this project took us two years to develop as we sought to include as many voices as possible. The result is a complete service of all original music by our lead musician, Nate Crary, with cello score by our associate musician Sophia Spiegel, words by myself and four members

of Tree and an illustrated bulletin designed by Pastoral Intern Sarah Hanson using her own and members' artwork. We released both the full recording and downloadable bulletins and music on Epiphany. (You can learn more and see our trailer on our website at: treeoflifempls.org.)

Tree continues to be primarily made up of young adults, many of whom are from the GLBTQ community, especially as we have leaned into our call to be millennial and GenZ led and queer affirming. The solid core of members who drew close during lockdown remains and is expanding to welcome visitors and new folks who are finding us through Instagram or online, through campus ministry and word of mouth. We're energized by these new faces and excited to grow and change more in 2022.

Thank you all for your steadfast support and for providing Tree with a home away from home. Especially during the uncertainty of the pandemic, Central has given us a place to feel rooted and surrounded by community so we can continue to help Tree thrive.

*With peace and thanks,
Pastor Marissa Sotos*



Baptismal Font Team

Central's new baptismal font design, as approved at the August 22, congregational meeting, is currently in production. The architectural designs by Melissa Young of ESG Architecture in consultation with Central's Font Team have been handed off to St. Paul Fabricators. They are coordinating carving the font's base and interlocking bowls out of granite and working with Stacia Goodman, a mosaic artist who will be tiling the inside of the bowls, paschal candle holder and colorful insets in the floor to represent sprinkled baptismal water.

Stacia and the font team chose iridescent tiles, arranged to mirror the colors of the stained glass windows above and accentuate the water flowing through the bowls.

We anticipate the font being installed this spring and Pastor Peter asked me share that this project is nearly fully funded. Big thanks to the Font Team: Angela Hagen, Christopher Haug,

Michael Dee and the rostered leaders for their discerning and steadfast work on this project. We will be celebrating baptisms in a beautiful new baptismal font soon.

Marissa Sotos, Liturgical Design Coordinator



Fiscal and Property Committee

As the pandemic continued, the Fiscal and Property Committee continued to meet on a monthly basis via Zoom conference calls. The committee reviews the monthly financial reports with the treasurer and finance director that are sent to the committee through email. Those reports include: income and expenses, balance sheets, designated fund accounts and investment accounts. Minutes are taken at each meeting and are on file in the church office.

Church capital projects were reviewed and tracked. When necessary, committee recommendations for spending were forwarded to the congregation council for action. The baptismal font, HVAC chillers, organ humidity issues and numerous other projects were reviewed and tracked monthly during the year.

The church again requested and was granted a Federal PPP loan grant in 2021. The loan

was monitored by the government and approved as a grant. That grant was most helpful in bolstering our revenues for the year. As pandemic restrictions eased, some parking revenue returned, also helping the financial picture. A new more favorable parking contract was negotiated that will help revenue in the future as parking for the Convention Center returns.

Going into 2022, the committee will meet in person or via Zoom conference, as conditions permit. The established processes of review and recommendations will continue as we transition to new leadership in the finance office. Economic uncertainty means we must remain vigilant using church financial resources.

*Respectfully submitted,
Steve Studt*



Generosity Team

“As you excel in all things...may you also excel in generosity.” 2 Corinthians 8:7

We often visit Geneva Lutheran Church in Illinois, church home to three of our grandchildren and their parents. This verse is used in their mission vision statement and displayed during worship and around their building. It makes me smile to see it because it reminds me of Central. We often hear Pastors Peter, Stephanie and Melissa say, “we are hardwired for generosity.” A culture of generosity has been established here and we excel at it. We embrace that we are beloved children of God, created in God’s image so generosity is in our DNA. For this reason, in late 2019, the Faith and Finances Ministry Team renamed our team the Generosity Team.

The first waves of Covid hit in March 2020 and forced cancelation of in-person gatherings. Our ministry team meetings were conducted over Zoom as the team adjusted to restrictions. We pivoted and tried new things. Our culture of generosity is accompanied by a culture of gratitude. Our 2020 fall generosity appeal focused on “God’s love - our thankful response.” Instead of submitting our faith promises and financial offerings, it became a time for us to send in expressions of thanksgiving and gratitude, written on cards and posted on the pews for all to see during online services. The church building may not have hosted the same services, but Central was open, and God’s work continued. Using Philippians 1:3-6 and 1 Thessalonians 1:2, the team wrote notes of appreciation to those who faithfully and generously continued to share their time, talents, and treasures to serve others.

As we began planning events for February, 2021, our plans were pushed back as Covid remained a threat. We prepared for the gradual re-opening of the building. We are thrilled that our new addition’s spacious Great Room has soaring ceilings and state-of-the art ventilation so we could help the Congregation Council host more than three hundred people who attended twelve Safe at Church gatherings in May. These occurred before we could gather for weekend worship. Using the theme “New Beginnings...Giving Thanks to God,” we listened as members shared their joys and laments of the past year. We explored how God has been present and where God is inviting us to

be active. Those attending received seed packets to brighten their homes and yards with new flower shoots.

In late August, the Generosity Team hosted new members for a casual taco dinner with the goal of fostering fellowship and providing connection between new members and church leaders. They learned how our congregation excels in generous acts within Central’s programming and in our daily lives.

In 2021, Centralites remained faithful in their giving. Along with the government’s Payroll Protection Program, we continued God’s work without limitations. For our 2022 annual generosity appeal weekend, we moved to an Advent ingathering for faith promises, on December 12-13. The theme was Isaiah 55:11-12 and the promise that God’s word does not return empty in our lives. Team members prepared temple talks, joined other Centralites to write daily devotions around the theme and handed out packets at worship services. The ingathering of our faith promises is a joyful response to God’s abundance in our lives. Because of your responses, the Generosity Team is filled with hope and gratitude.

With grateful hearts, we share the news that 370 Central households have generously responded to God’s love and the invitation to join funding our missions. 263 households submitted a faith promise in 2019. 107 additional households have made a faith promise this year – a 42% increase over 2019. We know these numbers will grow. Worshipers can commit to this act of intention between you and God at any point. Faith promises and changes in your electronic giving are welcomed at any time by contacting the Business Office. As of January 13, 2022, these early faith promises total \$1,150,000. Each gift is important, and your faithfulness is truly a blessing.

A huge thank you and appreciation to the members of the Generosity Team who invest their enthusiasm, creativity and energy into meetings and activities: Ken Hardy, Tom Edelen, Steve and Chris Dahlberg, Seth Peter and Ron Fiscus, and for the leadership and inspiration Pastor Peter provides. Thanks also to Pastor Stephanie who collaborated with us during Pastor Peter’s sabbatical.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Fiscus*



Align Minneapolis

Ongoing Work of the Organization

Align Mpls' Steering Committee met monthly to provide oversight for the organization. The Steering Committee heard and read reports from the organization's working groups and provided connection to member congregations. They endorsed the Rent Stabilization charter amendment on the fall ballot.

Align Mpls' Organizing Team met monthly and published three campaign guides for our member congregations that included elements of education, advocacy, giving and volunteer opportunities. Align MPLS' Director attended a week-long Congregational Organizing Training.

Align Mpls' Direct Service Provider team met monthly to coordinate services, share information and oversee Align's Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program. The group held a summit in August to discuss the ERA process and opportunities for adjusting the program to meet client needs. This group is exploring a potential partnership with the 'Nice Ride for All' bike sharing program.

Align Mpls co-sponsored two webinars with Hennepin History Museum, Plymouth Congregational and Alliance Housing focused on the history of housing law and discrimination in our city. We hosted a webinar about the Shelter Residents Bill of Rights created by Street Voices of Change and implemented in Hennepin County.

The Street Voices of Change Shelter Bill of Rights was taken to the state level within the legislature. This led to the creation of the Shelter Task Force, which will provide recommendations for standards of care and oversight of shelters across the state. Two SVoC members were appointed to serve on the Task Force.

Align MPLS supported weekly Street Voices of Change meetings at Central Lutheran and expanded to a second weekly meeting at Basilica of St. Mary. We helped to convene SVoC leadership monthly, and connected community requests to members of SVoC. Training for a SVoC Speaker's Bureau was held. Administrative support continued for SVoC including support for meetings, management of grants and expenses

and providing supplies. Street Voices of Change members participated in important initiatives including assisting with interviews for positions in the Hennepin County Office to End Homelessness, providing feedback on shelter support grant applications, participating in meetings of the Heading Home Hennepin Executive Committee and Covid response work within the homeless community.

StreetSong choir re-started in the fall following a hiatus due to Covid. The group rehearses weekly and sang for a worship service at the Basilica in November.

Partnerships and coalitions

Align Mpls continued participation in the Homes for All Coalition. The Homes for All Coalition legislative agenda for 2021 included support for the Shelter Residents Bill of Rights.

Align Mpls participated in Ending Street Homelessness collaboration meetings with downtown partners and helped plan the annual Homeless Memorial March and Service.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Sixty-four households were assisted with Emergency Rental Assistance, with a total of \$148,619 direct assistance provided to prevent homelessness. The average amount of assistance per household was \$2,322. Twenty-five households served were families with minor children, 39 were single adult or adult-only households.

Align Mpls Administration

Align Mpls hired a new director in May, Katie Dillion.

Three grants were awarded to Align MPLS in the amounts of \$5,000-\$10,000 including two for support of SVoC and one for general operations. Many individual donors gave to the organization, ranging from \$15 monthly contributions to much higher one-time contributions.

The organization maintained a balanced budget for the year and approved a budget for 2022.

*Blessings
Katie Dillion,
Director, Align Minneapolis*

Camp Amnicon

2021 was a wonderful adventure at Amnicon. Even though we continued to feel the challenges of the ongoing pandemic, we are celebrating a year of growth. Several of the wonderful adventures we experienced growth through in 2021 included:

- More summer wilderness group trips than we have had in nearly 10 years
- More Hermitage/personal cabin rental guests than we have ever had
- More total participants and rental guests than we have had in nearly 20 years
- More money was donated from individuals than has been in over 10 years
- Introducing the Red Clay Collective, our new community of monthly recurring givers and growing it to 22 members who give over \$12,000 annually to Amnicon
- Introducing new program offerings with Twin Cities Day Trips for groups and our Voyageur Club Adult Adventures
- Adding year-round staff members Melissa Rugg, our past summer cook, as part-time hospitality coordinator and Tanner Becken, as part-time maintenance coordinator.

We are grateful we were able to help meet the needs of so many more people this past year, especially at a time when safe, outdoor community has never been so needed. We are also grateful for the many people who came together to support the impactful ministry of Amnicon in even greater ways this past year.

As you may know, Amnicon has struggled with financial sustainability for many years while relying on a reserve fund to make up for yearly losses. While our numbers in 2021 aren't

finalized yet, projections show that we will again end the year in a deficit. However, our growth in 2021 will mean a deficit that is much smaller than it has been in many years. We are also using this growth to challenge ourselves for 2022 by committing to a goal of ending the year with a balanced budget.

We are also celebrating some developments at the end of 2021 that will further help Amnicon achieve financial sustainability. Amnicon has been blessed to receive a donation from a family to build three additional personal retreat cabins this year. The popularity of our cabins has exploded the past two years and these new cabins will give us the opportunity to meet demand and welcome even more people to our site.

We have also been blessed with a \$25,000 grant from the Seibert Lutheran Foundation, matched by a \$25,000 gift from a private foundation to implement a new program called the Outdoor Leaders Internship. This year-round internship will bring four young adults to work and learn at Amnicon and help us expand our program opportunities.

We have much to celebrate at Amnicon. As our mission grows to serve more people, we give thanks to the community of Central Lutheran for your continued support and partnership with Amnicon.

*With gratitude,
Jesse Weiss,
Executive Director, Camp Amnicon* ❖

Nominating Committee Report

Stephanie Beane and David Brenke, co-chairs

Here are the leaders that the Nominating Committee recommends for approval.

Council:

President: Jeff Block – 2 year term
Vice President: Rexanne Spicer – 2 year term
Treasurer: Karl Starr – 1 year remaining on term
Secretary: Heidi Tysk-Poppe – 2 year term

At Large:

Julie Anderson – 2 year term
Rachel Moeller – 2 year term
Rod Richter – 2 year term
Mark Erickson – 1 year remaining on term
Ann Oyen – 1 year remaining on term
Kirsten Hash – 1 year remaining on term

Nominating Committee:

Stephanie Beane – 1 year remaining on term
Thomas Anderson – 1 year remaining on term
Carol Rieger – 1 year remaining on term
David Brenke – 2 years remaining on term
Matt Grahn – 2 years remaining on term
Cathy Egan – 2 years remaining on term
Samina Welijan – 3 year term
Jenna Harvieux – 3 year term
Karen Hielsberg – 3 year term

Audit Committee:

Bruce Ellingson – 2 year term
Aaron Sankey – 1 year remaining on term
Mary Farmer – 1 year remaining on term

Synod Assembly:

Christa Olson
Karen Knox
Judith Hedman
Brian McKinley



Obie Holmen, Director of Finance



Due to the steadfast faithfulness of Central members, increasing contributions from the Foundation, and unexpected funds received in round two of the federal PPP program, Central's finances at the end of 2021 remain on firm footing.

At the annual meeting last year, Central adopted a budget that didn't anticipate any parking revenue, resulting in a projected operating budget deficit greater than \$300,000. According to the plan, accumulated cash reserves would be sufficient to cover the deficit while leaving comfortable end-of-2021 cash balances.

Several developments during the year altered the plan for the better:

- Central received significant federal funds from the PPP program.
- Offerings to the general fund exceeded the budget forecast.
- Some parking revenue returned.

With these positive developments, the projected deficit was more than wiped out, which allowed Central to approve an extra-budget expense for Bell Tower lighting at a special congregational meeting in August. The bottom line is that Central's cash reserves at year end remain healthy and adequate as we head into 2022.

We completed the second year of the Mission Forward Capital Campaign. Members contributed \$526,144 during the year, and the Foundation contributed \$84,000. With regular mortgage payments (supported by the capital campaign and the operating budget) and occasional extra payments of principal, the principal balances of our mortgage loans were reduced by \$913,269 by the end of the year. At year end, we renewed the loans at the same favorable interest rate (3.25%) for the next five years.

As we look forward to 2022, a balanced budget is proposed. This is possible due to the continued faithfulness of Central members, an increased contribution from the Foundation as their fund balance grows significantly, and a partial resumption of parking revenue. In fact, the proposed budget includes increased benevolence to our ministry partners and a line item to build a "Foundation Reserve" against the possible decrease in Foundation contributions in future years.

This will be my last report as Central's Director of Finance since I will be retiring as of January 31. I will miss the daily camaraderie that exists with staff, but since Lynn and I plan to continue as members of Central, we hope to build upon relationships within the Central community. I am grateful for the positive support I have received in the performance of my duties, and I am sure Sara Masters can look forward to the same encouragement as she steps into her new role.

Thanks be to God and to all of you.



Financials: Assets and Liabilities

ASSETS			
OPERATING	12/31/2021	12/31/2020	12/31/2019
Checking Accounts	\$208,892	\$288,935	\$97,245
Reserve Account	\$202,210	\$202,755	\$227,563
Align, TOL	\$227,812	\$240,365	\$91,745
TOTAL OPERATING ASSETS	\$638,914	\$732,054	\$416,553
BUILDING & CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS			
Checking Accounts	\$54,432	\$315,881	\$399,833
Sanctuary and New Construction*	\$17,130,000	\$17,130,000	\$17,130,000
Parking Lot Land and Equipment**	\$5,714,286	\$5,714,286	\$5,714,286
TOTAL BUILDING & CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS	\$22,898,718	\$23,160,167	\$23,244,119
DESIGNATED FUNDS (RESTRICTED)			
Checking Account	\$181,984	\$174,810	\$153,488
Funds Invested-ELCA	\$111,731	\$109,903	\$107,935
Life Insurance-Cash Surrender Value	\$26,601	\$27,790	\$26,259
Investments	\$419,542	\$352,261	\$347,819
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS ASSETS	\$739,858	\$664,764	\$635,500
COLUMBARIUM	\$24,556	\$69,411	\$77,427
TOTAL ASSETS	\$24,302,046	\$24,626,397	\$24,373,599
LIABILITIES			
FUNDS HELD FOR OTHERS (ALIGN, BETHANY &	\$227,812	\$240,365	\$91,745
MORTGAGE NOTES			
Long Term Note Payable-MIF	\$5,779,134	\$5,956,182	\$6,127,054
Short Term Note Payable-MIF	\$1,123,064	\$1,859,285	\$2,105,596
DESIGNATED FUNDS (RESTRICTED)	\$726,505	\$621,774	\$598,913
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$7,856,515	\$8,677,606	\$8,923,308
NET ASSETS	\$16,445,531	\$15,948,791	\$15,450,291

*Based upon a prospective appraisal dated September 29, 2017 obtained for the MIF loan application

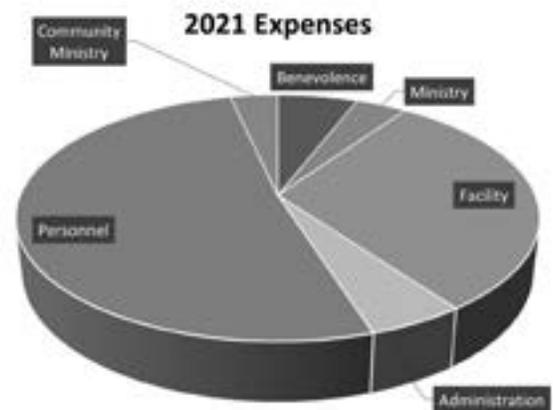
**The valuation of the parking lot is based upon net operating income and a capitalization rate

Proposed Budget

Accounts	Budget 2022	Budget 2021	Actual 2021
Revenues			
Regular Offering	\$1,400,000	\$1,275,000	\$1,371,302
Building Usage Revenue	\$10,000	\$0	\$2,630
Forgivable Loan Transfers	\$0	\$0	\$326,900
Parking Revenue	\$220,000	\$0	\$49,053
Foundation Revenue	\$1,212,000	\$972,000	\$977,826
Kitchen Cash Receipts	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$2,485
Donor Designated Restoration Ctr	\$106,750	\$97,500	\$107,309
Donor Designated Global Mission	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Donor Designated Audio Visual	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Donor Designated Music	\$24,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
Donor Designated CYF	\$42,000	\$36,000	\$36,000
Donor Designated Seniors	\$42,000	\$36,000	\$36,000
Donor Designated Seminarian Support	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Interest/Investment Revenue	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$19,208
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$928
Total CLC Revenues	\$3,082,750	\$2,455,000	\$2,956,141
Other Revenues			
Estate Gifts	\$0	\$0	\$1,826
Wedding and Funeral Services	\$0	\$0	\$17,825
Total Revenues	\$3,082,750	\$2,455,000	\$2,975,792
Expenses			
Mission Emphasis (Benevolence)			
Churchwide Partnership	\$60,000	\$58,000	\$58,000
ELCA Mission Start (North Loop)	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
ELCA South Sudan Mission	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Young Adults Global Mission (YAGM)	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Bright Stars of Bethlehem	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Luther Seminary CPL	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Synod Leadership	\$20,000	\$0	\$0
MN Council of Churches	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
Lutheran Healthcare Bangladesh	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Lutheran World Relief	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
China Service Ventures	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Wycliffe-Follingstad	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Wycliffe-Gaultney	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Envision Community (tiny homes)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Align Minneapolis	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$7,998
Mental Health Connect	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Lutheran Social Services	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Augsburg Health Commons	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
Camp Amnicon	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
ReconcilingWorks	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total Mission Emphasis (Benevolence)	\$230,000	\$186,000	\$180,998
Ministry Emphasis			
Worship Life Ministry	\$25,750	\$17,250	\$29,213
Music Ministry	\$29,950	\$23,325	\$30,666
Children/Youth/Family Ministry	\$21,250	\$16,250	\$19,798
Community Ministry	\$106,750	\$97,500	\$107,309
Fellowship Ministry	\$24,000	\$16,000	\$26,224
Other Ministries	\$15,300	\$13,900	\$9,631
Total Ministry Emphasis	\$223,000	\$184,225	\$222,842

Proposed Budget (continued)

Accounts	Budget 2022	Budget 2021	Actual 2021
Facility Expenses			
Building Operations	\$177,000	\$159,800	\$374,957
Utilities	\$125,000	\$110,000	\$117,963
Mortgage Loans	\$368,004	\$368,004	\$368,004
Foundation Escrow	\$108,000	\$0	\$55,826
Exterior Maintenance	\$40,000	\$58,000	\$15,900
Total Facility Expenses	\$818,004	\$695,804	\$932,651
Congregational Life			
Administration	\$127,550	\$141,550	\$123,017
Council & Committees	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$1,490
Communications	\$8,500	\$6,000	\$653
Banking, Legal, and Audit	\$32,000	\$32,500	\$30,816
Total Congregational Life	\$170,750	\$182,750	\$155,976
Personnel			
Facility Staff	\$116,006	\$109,800	\$102,117
Ministry and Admin Staff	\$820,385	\$762,200	\$780,585
Security & Restoration Staff	\$342,223	\$320,600	\$330,666
Employee Benefits	\$309,379	\$307,600	\$326,490
Continuing Education	\$18,500	\$18,500	\$18,672
Mileage & Expense Accounts	\$10,050	\$10,050	\$6,909
Misc Personnel Expense	\$16,200	\$14,700	\$15,695
Total Personnel	\$1,632,743	\$1,543,450	\$1,581,135
Non-budgeted Wedding and Funeral Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$13,100
Total Expenses	\$3,074,497	\$2,792,229	\$3,086,701
Net Total	\$8,253	-\$337,229	-\$110,909



2021 Designated Fund Summary

Accounts	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
ACTS	\$827	\$827
Baptismal Font	\$56,271	\$83,812
Bequests	\$0	\$0
Book Club	\$0	\$600
Camp Amnicon Designated	\$350	\$1,350
Caring for Creation	\$793	\$793
Centennial Quilt Project	\$710	\$0
Central Nursing Fund	\$1,143	\$1,143
Central Quilters	\$27	\$27
Circle of Hope	\$720	\$460
Community Ministry	\$67,312	\$86,712
Covid Cont Ed Carryover	\$4,342	\$573
CYF	\$19,477	\$33,050
Debt Reduction	\$0	\$0
Downtown Music Festival-2015	\$2,007	\$2,007
Due TO operating account	\$116	\$0
Ed Penner Memorial	\$5,100	\$0
Fine Art Acquisition	\$16,958	\$16,958
Foundation Reserve	\$52,252	\$58,078
Gardening Corps	\$3,397	\$3,547
Global Missions	\$15,488	\$16,204
Kitchen Fund	\$2,060	\$2,060
Library Reserve	\$8,224	\$8,154
Lighting Project Escrow	\$0	\$65,358
Long-term Projects	\$119,293	\$169,293
Maint & Sec Staff Discretionary	\$5,130	\$2,083
Memorials	\$13,887	\$1,050
Men's Fellowship	\$921	\$921
MF Envision Benevolence	\$20,000	\$0
MF Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh	\$20,000	\$20,000
MF TOL Benevolence	\$10,000	\$0
Mons Teig Memorial	\$3,498	\$0
Music Commission	\$10,000	\$10,000
Music Fund	\$15,273	\$22,964
Organ Fund	-\$1,527	\$0
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$5,742	\$6,642
Peace & Justice Forums	\$2,557	\$2,557
Prayer Shawls	\$567	\$567
Repair Fund (Consumables)	\$105,126	\$58,537
Saturday Night Worship	\$740	\$845
Sem Scholarships (Hanson & others)	\$2,826	\$3,766
Senior Adult Ministry	\$27,906	\$34,726
Sound and Technical	\$0	\$2,214
Staging Lift	\$1,000	\$1,000
Ushers	\$5,603	\$5,603
Youth Gathering Parking	\$0	\$2,022
Totals	\$626,116	\$726,505

Mission Forward Campaign Recap

Member Pledges Received 2020	\$1,157,127
2021	\$526,144
Total	\$1,683,271
Foundation Pledge Received 2020	\$84,000
2021	\$84,000
Total	\$168,000
Combined total	\$1,851,271
Expenditures	
Chiller Replacement	\$66,384
Lower Narthex	\$43,897
Advance Principal Payments	\$632,724
Mortgage Balances	
Long Term	\$5,779,135
Short Term	\$1,123,064
Checking Account Balance	\$54,432



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