



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

4161 Cypress Road • St. Ann, Missouri 63074

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Pastor Kristen Koch

Fifty-Fifth Annual Meeting and 2020 Annual Report

Call to Order: Sunday — January 31, 2021

Approval of Agenda (Table of Contents page)	1
Letter from the Bishop & Devotions	pages 2-5
Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting (not available at this time)	page 6-7
Minutes of the 2020 Annual Budget Meetings, Nov. 22, 2020	page 8
Election - Slate of Candidates	page 9
Reports	
Pastor Kristen	page 10
Pandemic Pages	page 11-16
President	page 17
Statistical Report	page 18
Treasurer's Financial Report	pages 19-24
Account Balances and Description of Funds	pages 25-26
Committee Reports	
Care / Evangelism Committee	page 27
Education / Youth Committee	page 28
Social Concerns Committee	page 29
Policy Team	page 29
Special Events Committee	page 30
Mutual Ministry	page 30
Stewardship Committee	page 31
Facilities Committee	page 32
Technology & Communications Team	page 32
Worship Committee	page 33
Altar Guild	page 34
Organization Reports	
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	page 34
Men's Group	page 35
The Garden of Eatin'	page 35
Shepherd of the Hills Endowment Fund	page 35
Little Free Pantry	page 36
Election Results	
Adjournment	

A message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton



Dear friends in Christ,

This year has been a challenging one! The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the church and society. We have had to shift the ways we engage in ministry from a focus on in-person worship and meetings to livestream worship, virtual meetings and gatherings in the parking lot. We have had to shift to teaching children at home and working from home. We have not been able to travel to see friends or relatives or to celebrate life events. This has also been a time to address economic and social justice issues, to shift our thinking and our way of life. In times such as this, our baptism in Christ makes a difference and makes us different. Like Christians before us, we recall that God is faithful to God's promises and God's people. We see that God enables us to connect with one another even when we are separated. Shifts in the world invite us to be innovative in how we do God's work and reach out to all ages in making disciples. We see that God is at work not only in our buildings but beyond them as well. We have found new ways to serve our neighbors and reach those in need. As we experience this time of uncertainty, we sense something new emerging. In many places there are new strategies and renewed energy for ministry, often generated by emerging leaders. We have developed a framework to build on, and now is the time to engage in hard work together. As you do in your congregation, we want our collaborative efforts to be both faithfully thoughtful and sustainable. We want to build up the body of Christ today and for the future. Looking across the church, I am grateful for your generous giving of time, talents and resources. Yes, God does continue to bless us! God will provide both relief from life's struggles and hope for a stronger church, God's church. We do not need to know how the future will unfold. As members in the body of Christ, we need only trust that God is with us and will provide.

Building up the body of Christ together,

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

“The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.”

—Ephesians 4:11-16

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Litany

L. O God of all power and love ...

C. ...we give thanks for your unfailing presence.

L. O God of all power and love, we give thanks ...

C. ...for the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.

L. O God of all power and love ...

C. ...we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask you ...

C. ...to revive us to live as Christ's body in the world.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask to be ...

C. ...a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask you to be with us ...

C. ...wherever and however we gather.

Unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Song:

1. Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in us a strong foundation.
Lead us to do your holy will; form and shape your new creation.
Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we guide and teach each other,
Help us to share your love with world:
Ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother. (refrain)

Refrain:

Growing in Christ, we plant seeds for the kingdom;
We follow in faith what's begun!
Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your word
To spread the news of your Son!

2. Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our lives reflect your glory.
Cast away all our doubts and fears; help us tell the world your story.
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us bear good fruit for you,
Lord, give us vision and keep us sure.
Grant us faith that's steadfast and true. (refrain)

Text: Mark Glaeser, b. 1956, and Donna Hanna, b. 1952

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In the early verses of Ephesians 4, the apostle Paul writes to the Christians in Ephesus, a city on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of a river and at the intersection of three trading routes. The letter was written about ten years after the church had started. During the early years of this congregation, Jews and Gentiles from several ethnicities and nationalities had come together to form “one body.” Paul was aware that they had done well and commended them for their faith and love.

The word “one” appears more than seven times in the first four verses. This reflects the importance Paul gave to being called into the “unity of Christ.” He wanted to note that, although many of the church members came from far off, there is “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” This oneness reflects God’s gift of reconciliation in Christ.

A second emphasis from Paul was that, as believers, they were to “bear with one another in love.” This would require humility, gentleness and patience as each of them practiced their faith. It would require tolerance to “maintain unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

A third emphasis was that each person had been given gifts by God and that these gifts were given to increase the whole. Because the Ephesian church was a young congregation and its members were just beginning in their faith journey, their understandings were often tossed to and fro. But as they grew in faith, each person contributed to building up the body of Christ.

The fourth and final emphasis was that by “speaking the truth in love,” each person must grow into Christ. This means taking time to learn about one another and their gifts. Knowing these gifts, we can do God’s work both within and beyond the faith community. When there are decisions to make or relationships to reconcile, we know to begin with prayer and reflection, always desiring to speak the truth in love — not for our own benefit but for God’s glory, that we might become more complete.

As our members and friends gather today, whether face-to-face or online, we are reminded of our calling into “unity in Christ.” We come from many places and work in many contexts, and yet we recognize “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.”

Whether new to a worshiping community or further along the journey, we realize that humility, gentleness and patience are required both in the good times and especially in times of uncertainty and struggle. God wants us to be more complete through our work. Christ provides the way. The Holy Spirit is with us for guidance and courage. Each of us has been given the gifts to be complete, and through our faithfulness we will grow stronger and work together as one body.

Let us pray: *Lord, let the words of the apostle Paul dwell in us deeply. May we embrace the reconciling power of oneness with Christ. May this oneness guide our congregation as we live into the new realities of these times. As we meet new partners in ministry, may we take time to get to know them with patience, humility and love. Help us to see how sharing our gifts will make your work easier and more fulfilling while bringing all of us closer to Christ. May the blessings you give each day strengthen us to a living, daring confidence in your grace. Amen.*

53rd ANNUAL MEETING Minutes
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Sunday, January , 2020

Not available at this time...

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING Minutes
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Sunday + November 22, 2020 via Zoom

Church Council Attendees: Pastor Kristen, Daryl Hogbin, Margaret Keyes, George Marvin, Jim Sanderson, Rachel Helton, Mike Toohey, Sam Johnson

Rachel Helton counted those congregation members of Shepherd of the Hills who were present at this 2021 Budget meeting. A Quorum of 20 members is needed to accept the 2021 Budget. Over 30 members were present, so a Quorum was met.

Sam Johnson called the meeting to order.

Bill Keyes moved to approve the Agenda for this 2021 Budget Meeting. Jeanne Keirle seconded it. The Agenda was approved

Sam Johnson said the prayer.

Daryl Hogbin presented the 2021 Budget. Questions and discussion points from the congregation on the 2021 Budget were heard and answered. Many thanks to Daryl Hogbin, Jim Sanderson and George Marvin for all the time and work they did on preparing the 2021 Budget for this meeting.

Martha Johnson made a motion to accept this 2021 Budget. Jeanne Keirle seconded it. The motion was passed by the voting members of Shepherd of the Hills to accept this 2021 Budget.

Bill Keyes moved to adjourn the Budget Meeting. George Marvin seconded this motion. The meeting is adjourned.

We all joined together as we said The Lord's Prayer.

Election – Slate of 2021 Candidates



Special thanks to **Jim Berry**—president, **Sam Johnson**—vice president & interim president, **Daryl Hogbin/Margaret Keyes**—secretary, **Marilyn Holbrook/Daryl Hogbin**—treasurer, and **George Marvin, John Meyer, Jim Sanderson, Mike Toohey, & Elyse Holbrook** for their dedicated service on 2020 church council.

Our sincere gratitude is extended to **George Marvin** who served in the role of financial secretary for the congregation and to **Daryl Hogbin** who stepped in as treasurer during this crazy year.

Mike Toohey, George Marvin & Martha Johnson who comprised this year’s nominating committee.

They are pleased to present the following candidate...

Candy Travis

Council term running from January 2021 to January 2023 (two year term)

Joshua Koch-Holdsworth, *Youth representative (from January 2021 to January 2022)*

The newly-elected Church Council for 2021 will be installed during worship on Feb. 7. The Church Council presents the following candidates for the 2021 nominating committee:

Julie Hutson, Margaret Keyes, Sam Johnson & Kim Surratt

Representative Positions...

Linda Ritter and Bill Keyes, Helping Ministry Board

Thanks to **John Meyer** for many years of faithful service on the CHM board.

2021 Synod Assembly



Central States Synod Assembly 2021 will be held on June 4—5 and will be held online.

Shepherd of the Hills is entitled to have one female, one male, and one youth/young adult representative, participating in this assembly, in addition to the pastor. The budget does not include any reimbursement for this year.

If you would like to attend please talk to Pastor Kristen as soon as possible. Thanks!

Pastor Kristen's Report...

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

It is difficult for me to come up with the words to describe this past year of 2020. So I will begin, instead, with some numbers:

- Only **2.5 months** into the year our lives and the ministry of Shepherd of the Hills changed drastically because of the deadly coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic.
- For **9.5 months** we suspended in-person gatherings.
- During that time I created, scheduled, produced, led and published **51 online worship services**.
- I **recorded 190 hymns** for worship.
- I compiled **41 "mini service" documents** of each Sunday's worship (including the sermon), which were then mailed out to about **30 households** each Monday by Margaret Keyes for a total of **1,130 mailings**.

In addition, I:

- coordinated and distributed bi-weekly packets and made weekly videos for 13 weeks of Virtual Sunday School in the fall,
- arranged with the Care team for phone calls to reach out to members,
- met multiple times each week to make video recordings with readers and assisting ministers,
- coordinated the "Together for Joy" stewardship campaign,
- packed Back to School bags and distributed them during a drive thru blessing for students returning to both in-person and online schooling,
- arranged for the purchase and installation of the second hygiene pantry,
- organized the God's Work Our Hands drive thru collection for both pantries and LuMin,
- supervised Eden Seminary student, Rachel Helton, beginning in September,
- compiled a "virtual concert" of special music to be posted to YouTube for use in long term care facilities,
- coordinated an online Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism service in October,
- established and coordinated the SOTH Singers to provide depth and connection to congregational singing,
- arranged for the virtual Christmas pageant and new mid-week Advent online worship, and
- helped coordinate another drive-thru with the Bridge Bread event and Advent/Christmas supply pick-up.

During all the pivoting and adjustments of this past year I have been so grateful for the support the congregation has given me. Thank you for trying new things – like Zoom worship and drive thru events. Thank you for your flexibility and generosity. Thank you for your prayer and your presence in online worship.

I've given a lot of thought this year to what it means to be church and what it means to participate in the church. Some of you have worshipped in live Zoom webinars while others have watched the recording of worship, and then there are others who's connection was through the weekly mini service mailings. And I believe that in all those situations we were gathered as God's people. In 2020 we were challenged to connect in new and different ways during the pandemic, and I hope that even after we resume in-person worship we can figure out ways to continue those connections.

Even when we are back in person for worship things will likely be different. But I have seen God at work in our congregation and community in new ways. And I pray that, however we come back together, we will do so asking new questions because we've been changed for the better through this experience.

-Pastor Kristen

2020...The Year We Got Creative

The set up in Pastor's basement for weekly worship



Beginning in the fall, Pastor and Alphie met each week to record hymns for Sunday (above)

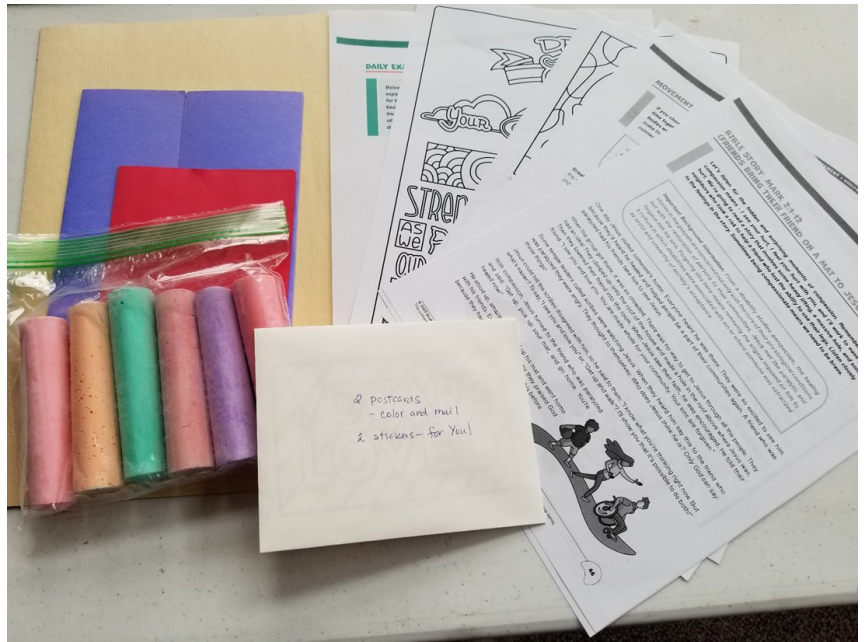
Fall also marked the beginning recording in the sanctuary for assisting ministers and readers (right)





**The build your own advent
wreath provided at the Dec. 6
drive-thru event.**

**An example of what was
in one of the Compassion
Camp Virtual Sunday
School packet distributed
every 2 weeks.**



Back to School Blessing Bags

God's Work Our Hands Sunday

(Pastor Kristen, K. & K. Surratt, R. Helton, G. Marvin, S. Meyer, J. Keirle, J. Carnaghi, J. Sanderson)



God's Work Our Hands drive thru collection for Hygiene Pantry

(R. Helton, K. Koch,
J. Keirle, E. Pursley,
R. Pursley)



Installing the new Hygiene Pantry

(S. Johnson, B. Johnson, M. Johnson,
J. Sanderson, M. Surratt)

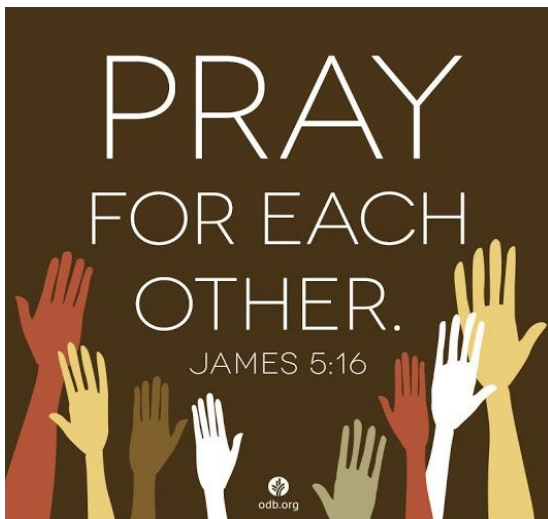




Wearing a mask shows...



Kindness



President's Report:

Dear Congregational Members of Shepherd of the Hills,

What an incredible year it has been for our congregation!

I know, that's not exactly the most common adjective used to describe 2020. Probably not even in the top 10. Seems a little too positive or optimistic, perhaps. But hear me out. Merriam-Webster defines "incredible" as *too extraordinary and improbable to be believed*. Improbable and out of the ordinary? I think you'd agree that's fair. And although there was a lot of challenge, and hurt, and sorrow, and all sorts of other negative things that went on around us, we have a lot to be proud of and thankful for this past year.

We took what started as a one-time stopgap measure and now have the capabilities to reach people digitally thousands of miles away on any given Sunday. You will read in the Pastor's and Worship Team reports just how much has gone into this new online worship experience. It's definitely something to be proud of.

We were able to expand our community stewardship by adding a Little Free Pantry for toiletries and hygiene products.

We maintained strong bonds of community and fellowship – values our congregation holds dear – in new ways by holding virtual events, Bible studies, and coffee hours.

Along with these positives came a few challenges. Foregoing in-person worship and gatherings has been difficult for many reasons. Financially, we made it through the year thanks to reduced expenses and a federal Payment Protection grant. Without the path to a balanced budget in 2021 Pastor Kristen has graciously agreed to reduce temporarily to a 75% schedule.

As we look to 2021, we have a number of things to look forward to. The Garden of Eatin' is set to be expanded and made more accessible. We will have the opportunity to learn from and collaborate with other area congregations through opportunities like Sunday School coordinated by the Eastern Missouri Conference. Though we don't know when we will return to in-person worship, when we do we now have many new ways to connect with each other outside the walls of the building.

Thank you all for everything you've done this past year and I look forward to seeing the incredible things you will accomplish in 2021.

Respectfully,

Sam Johnson

Interim Council President

Membership Statistical Report for 2020

	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership, end of 2019	113	100
<i>Members received during 2020...</i>		
By Infant Baptism	0	
By Adult Baptism	0	0
By Affirmation of Baptism	0	0
By Transfer	2	2
TOTAL MEMBERS RECEIVED.....	2	2
<i>Members removed during 2020...</i>		
By death	0	0
By transfer	6	4
By other	0	0
To inactive/responsibilities list	0	0
Statistical Adjustment.....	0	0
TOTAL MEMBERS REMOVED	6	4
Members Confirmed		3
MEMBERSHIP, END OF 2020.....	109	101

Members Received... by Transfer

Florence Flomo
Luvena Lewah

Baptized Members Confirmed:

Gage Dixon
Joshua Koch-Holdsworth
Kylie Surratt

Members Released by transfer...

Marilyn Holbrook
Sarah & Isaac Holbrook
Elyse, Evan & Erik Holbrook

Friend of SOTH who died:

Rita Wills

**Average
Sunday
Worship
Attendance
in 2020 was

60**

Financial Report

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church 2020 Treasurer’s Report Summary



This fall I “volunteered” to fill the position as this congregation’s treasurer. I possess no formal training or background in accounting or finance and I ask the congregation’s tolerance and for patience as I learn and hone new skills. My intent is to make the presentation of dry financial data as clear and as understandable as possible as we are all stakeholders in this community. I offer a special word of thanks to Bob Bird and Linda Ritter for their assistance and insights as well as Lauri Anderson and Pastor Kristen for their help in understanding the operating rhythm as it relates to the treasurer’s role. With that said please allow me to share my takeaways from the year.

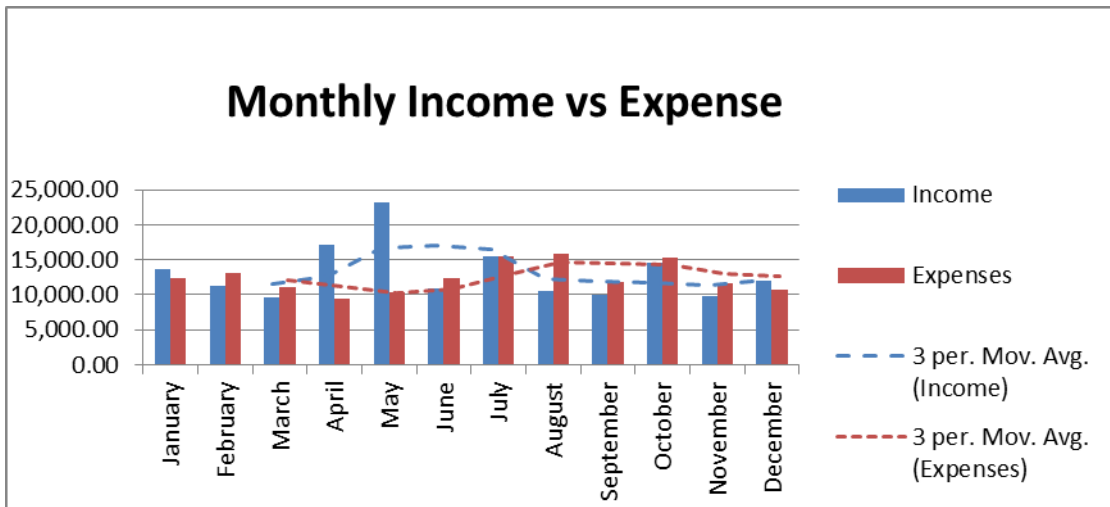
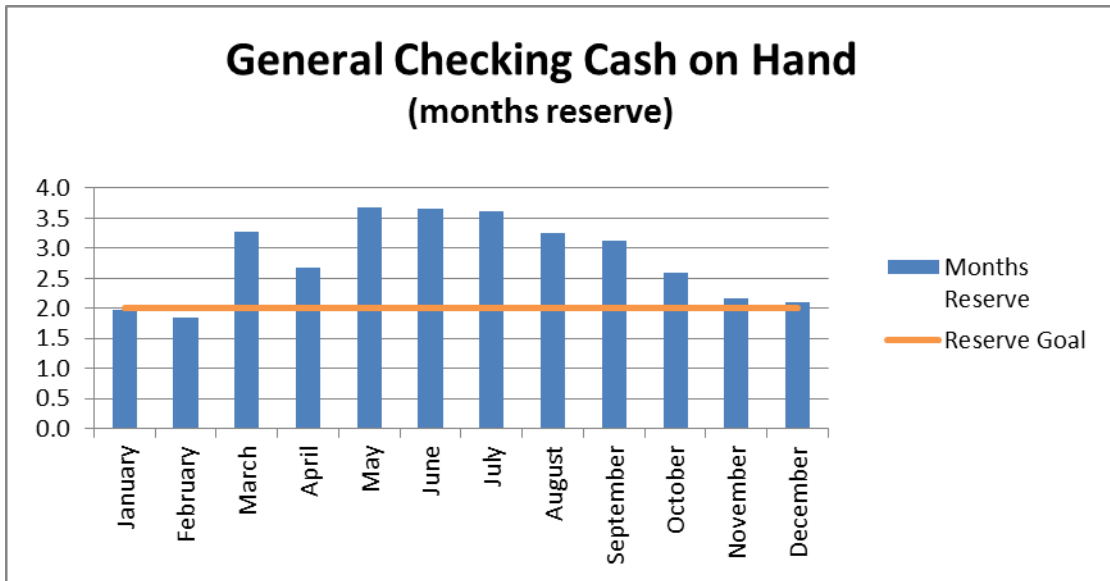
- **Financial Impacts of the Pandemic.** While giving for general operating expenses fell short of the budgeted amount for the year by nearly \$20,000 we were able to cover this shortfall with a combination of reduced expenses and participating in the CARES ACT Payroll Protection Program.

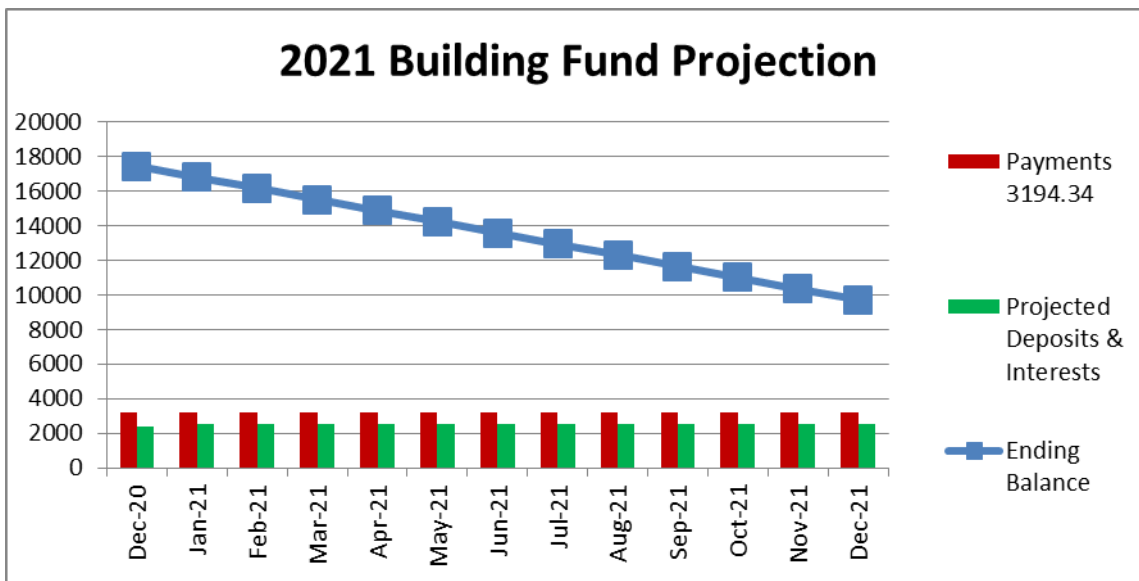
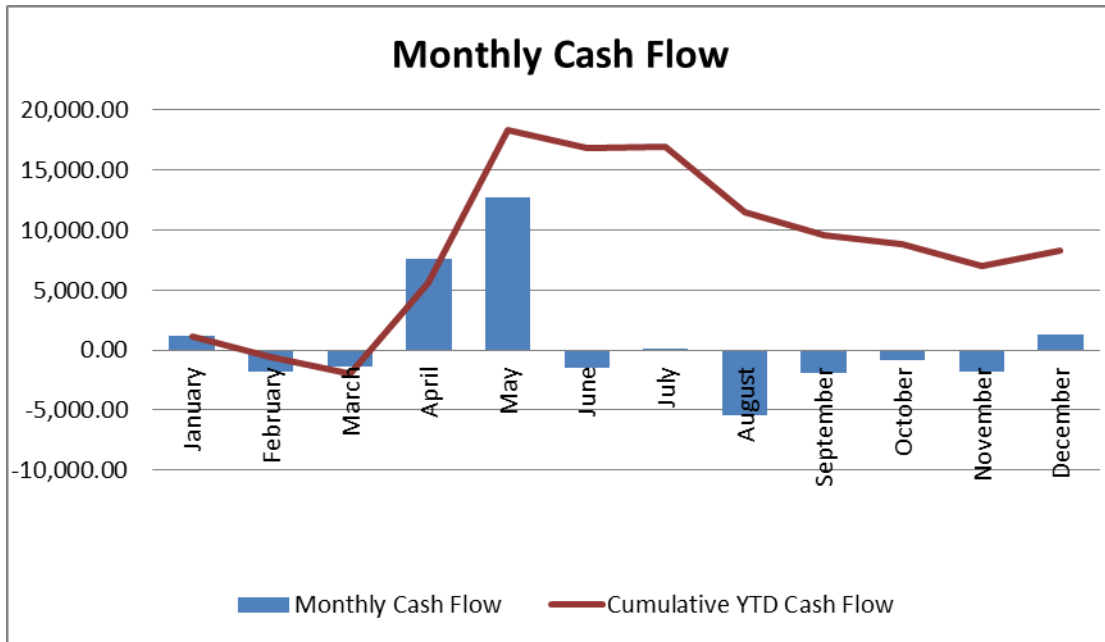
Note: The numbers below have been adjusted to account for operational expenses only and do not reflect designated giving. They also include only the mortgage contribution portion of the budget and not the full monthly mortgage payment which is paid from the Mission Investment Building Fund.

2019 Actual Offerings Received	2020 Budgeted Offerings	2020 Actual Offerings	Change from 2020 Budget	Change from 2019 Actual
\$153,725	\$159,365	\$139,585*	-\$19,780	-\$14,140
*excludes forgivable \$15,100 Payroll Protection Program loan				
2019 Actual Expenses	2020 Budgeted Expenses	2020 Actual Expenses	Change from 2020 Budget	Change from 2019 Actual
\$154,122	\$159,365	\$148,515	-\$10850	-\$5,607

- A balanced budget for 2021 was adopted. Regrettably, the budget did not allow for the funding of full time pastoral support. Pastor Kristen has graciously agreed to reduce to a 75% schedule for the time being.
- Cash reserve in general checking is on target at 2.1 months’ worth of expenses.
- Cash Flow for General Checking and Building Fund are stable.
- Consolidated seven existing checking and savings accounts for dedicated funds into two accounts.
- Received ELCA grants for technology updates and for the expansion and funding of the community pantry.
- Received an anonymous donation for establishing a member assistance fund to provide assistance members in times of extreme need. The Care and Evangelism committee is working to establish guidelines for administering this fund.

Key Metrics





**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
2020 Treasurer's Report**

	2020 Budget	2020 Year End Actual
Church Offerings		
Offering	\$ 158,050.00	\$ 138,516.14
Loose offering	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 82.00
Other Offerings	\$ 315.00	\$ 16,087.00
Total Church Offerings	\$ 159,365.00	\$ 154,685.14
Office & Administration		
Computer Hardware/Software	\$ -	\$ -
Copier	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 2,124.58
Council Retreat	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Employer Payroll Tax (SSN Match)	\$ 1,422.90	\$ 1,422.64
Equipment Repair	\$ -	\$ -
Fees & Licenses	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.50
Living Lutheran Magazine	\$ 125.00	\$ 89.70
Member Envelopes	\$ -	\$ -
Office Supplies	\$ -	\$ 170.48
Phone/Internet	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,909.64
Postage	\$ 35.00	\$ 146.40
Secretarial Assistance	\$ 9,700.00	\$ 9,739.75
Total Office & Administration	\$ 15,482.90	\$ 15,653.69
ELCA		
ELCA Central States Synod	\$ 1,984.10	\$ 1,672.00
Total ELCA Contribution	\$ 1,984.10	\$ 1,672.00
Education		
Background Checks	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00
Bible Study	\$ -	\$ -
Gift Bibles	\$ -	\$ -
AV Updates	\$ -	\$ -
Special Events	\$ -	\$ -
Sunday school	\$ 25.00	\$ 204.82
Confirmation	\$ 50.00	\$ -

Vacation Bible School	\$ -	\$ -
Total Education	\$ 125.00	\$ 234.82
	2020 Budget	2020 Year End Actual
Care & Evangelism		
Cards/Postage	\$ -	\$ 8.45
Cancer Companions	\$ -	\$ -
New Member Outreach	\$ -	\$ -
Special Gifts	\$ 25.00	\$ -
Total Care & Evangelism	\$ 25.00	\$ 8.45
Facilities		
Building Supplies	\$ 700.00	\$ 146.09
Capital Improvements	\$ -	\$ -
Facility Management	\$ 8,900.00	\$ 8,900.00
Insurance	\$ 4,540.00	\$ 5,060.24
Lawn Service	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 382.00
Mortgage Contribution	\$ 24,217.00	\$ 20,687.00
Parking Lot Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -
Security Equipment	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
Snow Removal	\$ -	\$ -
Technical Equipment	\$ -	\$ 512.20
Utilities	\$ 8,100.00	\$ 5,527.14
Workman's Compensation	\$ 626.00	\$ 522.79
Total Facilities	\$ 48,883.00	\$ 43,637.46
Pastoral Compensation		
Salary	\$ 25,719.00	\$ 25,719.00
Housing	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Portico - pension/benefits	\$ 19,194.00	\$ 19,078.26
Automobile	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 126.50
Social Security Offset	\$ 4,262.00	\$ 4,262.00
Continuing Education	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 55.00
Professional Expenses	\$ 350.00	\$ 35.95
Synod Required Events	\$ 1,100.00	\$ -
Total Pastoral Compensation	\$ 82,825.00	\$ 79,276.71

	2020 Budget	2020 Year End Actual
Worship		
Accompanist	\$ 8,100.00	\$ 5,195.00
Other Musicians	\$ -	\$ -
Continuing Education	\$ -	\$ -
Physical Worship Supplies	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 2,389.86
Licensing and Subscription Fees	\$ -	
Pulpit Supply	\$ 600.00	\$ -
Piano Tuning	\$ 90.00	\$ 100.00
Technology Updates	\$ -	\$ 346.85
Total Worship	\$ 10,040.00	\$ 8,031.71
Designated Giving for Benevolences and Special Initiatives		
<i>*Denotes funds collected but not fully dispersed</i>		
Community Helping Ministry (Penny Power Offering)		\$ 150.27
Lutheran Campus Ministry STL (Penny Power Offering)		\$ 180.25
Bridge Bread		\$ 229.00
Butterfly Haven (Lenten Offerings)		\$ 432.25
ELCA Good Gifts		\$ 88.91
Community Pantry * (ELCA Grant)		\$ 2,000.00
Member Assistance Fund* (Anonymous Donation)		\$ 10,000.00
Total Benevolences and Special Initiatives		\$ 13,080.68

**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Account Balances as of 12/31/2020**

Account Balances as of 31 December 2020	Totals
St. John's Bank Regular Checking (General Operating Fund)	\$ 28,417.94
St. John's Bank Money Market (Dedicated Funds)	\$ 10,540.10
Thrivent Annuity Account (Dedicated Funds)	\$ 16,612.08
ELCA MIF Building Fund (Mortgage Reserve)	\$ 17,450.27
Thrivent Endowment Fund	\$ 121,595.74
Account Totals	\$ 194,616.13

Description of Dedicated Funds

Fund Name and Description	Administered by	Held At	2020 Year End Balance
Altar Enhancements - For funding the improvement and addition of worship banners, altar cloths, paraments and worship enhancements not in the annual operating budget.	Altar Guild	Thrivent Financial	\$ 1,152.63
Building Fund – Mortgage Reserve - Dedicated account established to deposit funds used to make monthly mortgage payments.	Church Council	ELCA Mission Investment Fund	\$ 17,450.27
Building Maintenance Fund - To assist in the funding of building maintenance needs not provided for in the regular budget.	Church Council & Facilities Committee	Thrivent Financial	\$ 3,338.59
Care Giving Ministry - Memorial fund given in honor of Dennis Fiske for leadership training and opportunities in care giving.	Care and Evangelism Committee	Thrivent Financial	\$ 858.34
Community Pantry - An ELCA grant to be used for the maintenance and purchase of supplies for the community pantry	Various	Thrivent Financial St. Johns Bank	\$ 1,503.47

Endowment Fund - Endowment fund with proceeds dedicated to support Children and Youth, Community and Older Age Ministries	Endowment Fund Committee	Thrivent Financial	\$ 121,595.74
James M Urnes Jr. Memorial - Memorial fund to be used for a project to be dedicated in memory of James Urnes Jr.	Urnes Family	St. Johns Bank	\$ 539.83
Member Assistance Fund - Funded by an anonymous donation to provide financial assistance for members in times of extreme need.	Care and Evangelism Committee	St. Johns Bank	\$ 9,500.26
Men's Group Fund - To assist in funding of items not in the annual operating budget.	Men's Group	Thrivent Financial	\$ 4,357.55
Youth Arts Fund - Purpose is to supplement private lessons and/or purchase materials needs for the youth of the congregations.	Youth Leader	Thrivent Financial	\$ 252.38
Youth Fund - Established to provide additional funding for Youth programs and activities not in the annual operating budget.	Youth Leader	Thrivent Financial	\$ 5,023.03

Submitted by Daryl Hogbin

Care / Evangelism

Care/ Evangelism members : Jeanne Keirle, Barb Daab, Lisa Hogbin, Pat Amick, Sydney Meyer, and Margaret Keyes. Council Representative: Jim Sanderson



Things we were able to accomplish in 2020:

- The committee met regularly in the summer and fall to coordinate member lists so that each household was contacted and updated on current events
- Delivered birthday items to Butterfly Haven to assist in birthday parties for their clients
- We organized an online Bridge Bread fundraiser during December

We will be meeting in 2021 to discuss the perimeters of the new Special Assistance Fund and will share that information with the congregation as soon as it is all finalized.

We will continue to support the Little Free Pantry and CHM food drives.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jeanne Keirle

Education and Youth Committee

Faith Formation:

With the onslaught of COVID19 so early in the year, reaching out to the youth posed quite a challenge. I am grateful to all the families who stayed connected as best they could during this a challenging time.

Lent 2020

Lent in a Box

- Activities for each week of Lent were introduced by a variety of different adult leaders. The students were then able to replicate the projects at home from the supplies in their box.

Summer 2020

Goodie Bags

- Monthly bags/envelopes of activities and worship bulletins were distributed to students and their families.

Fall 2020

Back to School bags

- Both inspirational and practical items for online schooling were distributed to students and families

Compassion Camp

- 12 weeks of videos and supplies created by 5 congregations of the Easter Missouri Conference of the Central States Synod to encourage students to “Be Loved, Be Kind, Be You”

Winter 2020

“Do Not Be Afraid” virtual Christmas pageant

- the script from Illustrated Ministry, and the video edited by Daryn Holdsworth helped to tell the story of the first Christmas (in the style of The Princess Bride).

Confirmation

Both levels of the Confirmation class were able to meet the first 2 months of 2020. They created the Wilderness decorations for our Lenten theme, and presented in worship on the meaning of each symbol found in the “wilderness vase”. We had two online zoom classes before school let out.

In the fall, the 3 second year students, Gage Dixon, Joshua Koch-Holdsworth, and Kylie Surratt, met a few times outside before their affirmation of faith in an online worship service on October 25, 2020.

Small Group Bible Study

This engaging group of students began their study on “How Lutherans Interpret the Bible” in person during the season of Lent. After COVID hit, they went online via Zoom to complete the session. They took a short break and then quickly dove into the book of Acts, where they remained until the end of December when they went on break again until the new year.

Many thanks to Rev. Karen Scherer (and occasionally Rachel Helton) for leading this group.

Submitted by Pastor Kristen Koch

Social Concerns Ministry



Ministries and organizations supported/partnered with in 2020

Souper Bowl of Caring collected 150 food items and \$67 for Butterfly Haven

Little Free Pantry on Cypress Road

- ⊕ Entered its 4th year of support to the community
- ⊕ A second hygiene pantry was installed in September, using funds from Central States Synod

God's Work Our Hands

- ⊕ Collected cards of encouragement for students at LuMin (formerly Lutheran Campus Ministry)
- ⊕ Had a "drive thru" collection for penny power dedicated to LuMin AND hygiene items for the pantry

Bridge Bread

- ⊕ Hosted another "drive thru" opportunity for ordering and picking up items from Bridge Bread, which had experienced a serious reduction of work for the bakers do to the COVID shut down

Eastern Missouri Conference of the Central States Synod

- ⊕ Hosted the 12 week virtual Sunday School event, Compassion Camp, with some of the music performed by Pastor Kristen & Daryn, along with Gabi Anderson supplying sign language.

Lutheran Church of the Living Christ in Florissant, The Bridge Faith Community in St. Charles

- ⊕ Collaborated on a joint Palm Sunday worship service video

It is good to see that even during such a time of separation we were able to keep connections we'd already established, as well as make some new connections. We do not do this ministry alone!

Respectfully submitted,

-Pastor Kristen Koch



Policy Team

The Policy Team is a committee who's purpose is to create and revise policies related to the many activities that go on at Shepherd of the Hills.

In 2020, the Policy Team did not revise or submit any new policies.

The Shepherd of the Hills 2020 Policy Team members include Lauri Anderson, Martha Johnson, and Abbi Telander.

Respectfully submitted by,

Martha Johnson, chair

Special Events Committee



This committee is setup to facilitate with special gatherings of the congregation which include food, table service, set-up, and clean-up. This is not a budgeted item and therefore is dependent on you, the generous congregation. You always respond with willingness and enthusiasm making this an easy task! This year, because of the pandemic, we did not host any events.

Thanks to all who contribute food and energy to make this a success.

Respectfully submitted by, Ann Smith, *chair*

Mutual Ministry Team



The Mutual Ministry team for 2020 consisted of Mara Berry, Lisa Hogbin, Dave Elder, Mike Toohey, and Jim Urnes with the following goals:

- ◆ a confidential “listening post” for the pastor, lay professional and congregation members when there are concerns, constructive ideas to share, or appreciation for positive ministry practices
- ◆ a place where the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the pastor and lay professional are tended to

In 2020, the team did not meet with either Pastor Kristen or Lauri Anderson due to the pandemic.

Equally important is our role in encouraging and recognizing the positive impact their work and ministry has on our congregation. We are grateful when concerns are brought to us in the spirit of Christian love and care for all members of SOTH. While the Mutual Ministry Team is unable to solve every problem, we always seek God’s guidance in helping us respond with Christian wisdom and love as we seek to mutually minister to each other.

Please pray for us.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mara Berry, chair

Stewardship Committee



The Stewardship Committee mission is as follows: “To be good stewards of God’s given gifts of time, talent and treasures. We center our congregation on the awareness of those gifts God continues to provide each of us.” With this mission statement in place, our goal is to have the congregation identify a new model of stewardship: God’s gifts coming down to us, looking in at our gifts of time, talent and treasure, and looking out into the community for stewardship/service needs.

The Stewardship committee did not meet this year due to the pandemic. However, Pastor Kristen was able to coordinate a pledge drive using the “Together for Joy” resources from SALT Project*. We had a 95% return rate on the pledge cards-thank you!

*This included Social Media posts on our Facebook page (see images at bottom of report).

The Stewardship Committee would also like to highlight the following activities, carried on by the people of Shepherd of the Hills, to care for the people of God:

Super Bowl of Caring, God’s Work, Our Hands, Pancake Supper, The Little Free Pantry & Hygiene Pantry, CHM, Blessing Bags, the Garden of Eatin’, and Penny Power donation.

The Stewardship committee would like to recognize the people of Shepherd of the Hills for the ways you utilize your time, talents, and treasure. We also encourage you to continue to look out into the community for ways to do Gods work.

Members serving on the Stewardship committee this year were: Bill Johnson, Kim Surratt, Julie Hutson, Suah Gweama, and Patricia Amick.



NAME SOMETHING
BEAUTIFUL THAT YOU SAW OR
EXPERIENCED THIS WEEK...



NAME THREE THINGS
THAT MAKE OUR CHURCH
SPECIAL OR UNIQUE.





Facilities Committee

- ◆ Isaac Holbrook handled the lawn maintenance during 2020 but we will need to find a new person for 2021. Please contact the church office if you have any recommendations.
- ◆ Unfortunately the ground hog made a reappearance this Spring and did more damage to the area by the HVAC units outside the nursery. This will need to be addressed in the near future to prevent further damage. Contact

Lauri if you have any ideas or can help out with labor.

- ◆ We also have some interior HVAC maintenance/repairs needed. Please contact the church office if you have any HVAC company recommendations.

Special thanks to all who faithfully pitch in as needed with various tasks that are needed to keep the building running. It is all greatly appreciated!

Technology & Communications Team

The Technology and Communications Team provides expertise for using and maintaining technology resources at SOTH, and supports channels of communication between ministry teams, administration, and the congregation.



In 2020:

- φ Updated Pastor Kristen's laptop with a new one to better support online worship
- φ Published the e-newsletter, "This Week at SOTH", on a weekly basis
- φ Assisted with writing and revising letters and advertisements as needed
- φ Created a new YouTube channel for posting worship recordings

In 2021:

- φ We will look into updating the office laptop
- φ We will continue to publish "This Week at SOTH" and to consider additional opportunities to widen our social media presence.

You can reach us at communications@sothstl.org

Special thanks to team members for their weekly efforts:
Pastor Kristen, Lauri Anderson, Bill Keyes, Margaret Keyes,
Abbi Telander
and to those who serve in other ways.





Worship Committee

The year 2020 brought many challenges to the Worship Team as we tried to bring meaningful worship to the congregation in a year that was anything but typical. Zoom meetings became our line of communication with each other and a means to reach out to the congregation with a continued worship experience. This was a year of learning, experimenting, and trusting in God's vision for our life together as a congregation. It was also a year that really reinforced the truth that the church is not a building where people go, but a group of people living out God's plans and reaching out beyond the building.

The Worship Team would like to thank Pastor Kristen for her leadership and hard work in bringing a virtual church format to life for all of us in the congregation. We are grateful for her willingness to embrace new technologies and try new ways of doing worship in this very different year.

March suddenly shifted to virtual worship that many hoped would last a few months and has turned into a much more extended period of time. During this time we have experienced many new firsts in virtual worship and a continuation of some of our traditions in altered ways. Some of our worship experiences included:

- Sunday Zoom worship services
- Livestreamed Lenten worship with Holden Evening Prayer
- Special music videos and audio recordings
- Virtual Holy Week and Easter Services
- A God's Work, Our Hands Sunday that included several opportunities to participate in servant events even in the midst of a pandemic.
- Online service of Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism
- An all-seasons liturgy on Christ the King Sunday
- Our first "virtual" Christmas Program coordinated by Daryn Holdsworth
- A midweek Advent service coordinated and presented by Rachel Helton including a Longest Night service on December 21st.
- Virtual Christmas Eve service that incorporated many of our traditions with photos of nativity scenes from peoples' homes and photos of members of the congregation with lit candles that were displayed during the singing of Silent Night
- The formation of the SOTH singers. This group of people records themselves singing the hymns and they are compiled into a group recording bringing multiple voices to our worship experience.
- All of the assisting ministers, lay readers, technical assistants and musicians offering their special music to bring us all together in our worship experience.

We would like to thank all of people who work together and contribute to our worship services. Thanks to Pastor Kristen Koch and Daryn Holdsworth, Bill and Martha Johnson, online technical assistants who have worked so hard this year to bring us online Zoom services. Thank you to those who have brought us the gift of music this year Alphie Kiu, the Men's Quartet, the SOTH singers and everyone who has offered special music this year. To all of the Assistant Ministers and Lay Readers who have contributed to our online worship. Most of all, thank you to the Congregation who has adapted to this continuing new worship experience. We appreciate you all.

Worship Team members: Pastor Kristen Koch, Julie Hutson, Jim Urnes, Bill Keyes, Margaret Keyes, Rachel Helton and Candy Travis

Respectfully submitted by,

Candy Travis, on behalf of the Worship Team





This has been an unusual year with the pandemic. The Altar Guild was only needed during the first few months of the year. However, I would like to extend a special thank you to the wonderful ladies who were willing to serve on the Altar Guild: Nancy Ambacher, Rhonda Bird, Sharon Elder, Lisa Hogbin, Julie Hutson, Carol Krull, Ann Smith and Lois Urnes (along with myself). We look forward to a time when we are able to worship together again.

New members are always welcome. If you are interested, please speak to any of the ladies listed above or myself to find out how easy and rewarding it is to serve. We would love to have you.

Respectfully submitted by,
Barb Daab, coordinator

Women's Group

WELCA had a very quiet year in 2020 because of the pandemic. We were unable to host our annual craft and bake sale in the fall as the church was still online only.



Special thanks to Margaret Keyes for her faithful service of receiving and sending information out on the prayer chain. This is such a blessing. Special thanks to the Keyes Family for their wonderful, caring card ministry they continue to support.

Special thanks to all of the women who so willingly help throughout normal times preparing meals and assisting with special events. We all continue to do God's work with all of our hands.

Special thanks to Carol Krull for handling the treasury aspect of WELCA,

WELCA is very blessed to have such wonderful support from all of the members.

Hopefully 2021 will be a better year.

Respectfully submitted by,
Linda Ritter, WELCA President

Men's Group



The men's group in 2020 hosted one event., the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper which was well attended as usual. Unfortunately because of the pandemic we were unable to host the annual Easter egg hunt.

The Men's Group is looking forward to supporting the return to in-person worship.

There will also be new leadership opportunities available within the group when we return.

The Garden of Eatin'



Community Garden

2020 was the seventh growing season for the Garden of Eatin' Community Garden. Members were able to meet and work in their gardens while maintaining a safe distance.

This year members voted to pay the water bill for SOTH for the entire year as a good will gesture to compensate for the increased water usage during growing season.

Members also requested permission to construct a ramp on the curb near the water spigot and will be applying for a grant from Gateway Greening for a handicapped accessible raised bed.

Watch for information in the newsletter on when this new bed will be installed.

Special thanks to Sharon Elder who is the garden's treasurer, Bob & Marilyn Nenninger who are the garden leaders, and all members who participate by gardening or providing assistance on work days. Thank you to the congregation of Shepherd of the Hills for your continued support to this community endeavor!

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund has been successful during 2020. It has grown to \$121,595.74, \$20,483.95 more than contributions!

The Committee is entitled to recommend to Council ways to spend up to 5% of the total or \$6,079.79. The Committee has not met to formulate a plan to recommend to Council.

Respectfully submitted,

George Marvin

Endowment Team members: George Marvin (chair), Jeanne Keirle, Sophia Koch-Holdsworth, Ann Smith, Margaret Keyes and Daryl Hogbin-treasurer ex-officio.

Little Free Pantry

Inspired by an article in The Lutheran Magazine and patterned after Little Free Libraries, in 2017 Shepherd of the Hills installed a Little Free Pantry on our property.



Even as we were not worshipping in person at our facility, the pantry continued to be used and stocked by members of the community as well as supported by members of Shepherd of the Hills.

In the Spring of 2020, at the request of a community supporter, a grant was obtained to install a second pantry for hygiene items. Thanks to Pastor Kristen for locating and ordering, Martha Johnson for painting, Jim Sanderson, Bill & Martha Johnson, Sam Johnson and Mike Surratt for installing, and everyone who dropped off supplies. The new pantry looks great and provides additional help to those in need.

Daniel Hogbin and a member of the Garden of Eatin' performed some maintenance work on the doors of our original pantry. Thanks, Daniel & Ron! We are looking into other options for the doors on the original pantry as they are showing wear, to be funded by grant money from the Central States Synod. Many thanks to everyone at Shepherd of the Hills for supporting our Little Free Pantry and showing our community the God calls us to love one another.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Johnson

In recognition of Faithful Service:

- To George Marvin and Mike Toohey, “retiring” Council members
- To Daryl Hogbin for stepping in as treasurer and his great attention to detail, and to George Marvin for continuing as financial secretary during this difficult year
- To Mike Toohey, Abbi Telander & Bill Keyes for editing and publishing our new weekly e-newsletter
- And to those of you who help out “behind the scenes” on a regular basis to help keep things running smoothly, inside and outside of the building

Special thanks: to Lauri Anderson for the extra work preparing this document. We are also grateful to all the team /committee members for submitting their reports in a timely manner.