



2020 ANNUAL  
**REPORT**

## MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Bethel Congregation, called by God, commit ourselves to proclaim the Gospel, to prepare our members for outreach and service, and to minister to human needs.

## VISION STATEMENT

Bethel Lutheran Church will stand as a Lutheran and Christian leader in this community by being: a vibrant place of worship; a caring institution utilizing its many resources of people, facilities, and finances to serve members, the community, and interdependent expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; a place to nurture and educate; and an interpreter and supporter of global mission.

## CORE VALUES

- Jesus is Lord of all; Christ is at the center of all Bethel's ministry and proclamation.
- Corporate worship is Bethel's highest commitment and will be expressed by sharing the faith with others throughout the week.
- God's people of Bethel are called to serve family, church, community, and world through continuous outreach and mission.
- Bethel will model a godly way of life for our members and society, including, but not limited to: a life of integrity, honesty, commitment, and loyalty.
- Bethel will be good stewards of our time, talent, and resources in serving members and the community.
- Bethel will nurture the entire congregation through education and building up of the family unit.
- Bethel will be a source of comfort to those who suffer, mourn, or are in distress.

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## BETHEL STAFF

### PASTORS

- Rev. Anjanette Bandel, Lead Pastor
- Rev. Jason Burggraff, Associate Pastor - Education
- Rev. Linda Helberg, Pastor of Visitation

### STAFF

- Julie Allhiser, Director of Middle School Ministry
- Melissa Almer, Hearing Interpreter
- Jim Bahler, Principal Organist
- Cindy Bahler, Wedding Coordinator/Communications' Assistant
- Brock Besse, Minister of Worship & Music
- Cheri Brinson, Receptionist
- Kathy Ferguson, RN, Parish Nurse
- Rachel Hasley, Director of Communications
- Janet Hoffmann, Administrative Secretary
- Sheri Kallembach, Member Coordinator
- Susan Larson, Director of Children's Ministry
- Wendy Lewis, Weekend Receptionist
- Michele Nyman, Leader for the Gate of Life Worship
- Terra O'Brien, Business Administrator
- Connie Post, Membership Secretary
- Michele Pretzer, Weekend Receptionist
- Merle Savage, Associate Music Director
- Kari Tollefson, Children's Ministry Assistant
- Tony Wright, Custodial Supervisor
- Becky Wulff, Hearing Interpreter

### BETHEL COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Mark Smith, President
- Marissa Guggisberg, Vice President
- Steve Berland, Treasurer
- Adam Holz, Secretary
- Mitch Anderson, Resource Board
- Bianca DeLone, Christian Education Board
- Tammy Gross, Congregational Growth and Outreach Board
- Sue Garcia, Worship and Music Board

# STATISTICAL SUMMARY



## IN MEMORIAM

During 2020, the following Bethel members were transferred to the Church Triumphant. As a congregation, we extend our deep sympathy to those who have experienced the loss of:

Iva Anderson  
 Beverly Baker  
 Ila Barnes  
 Joyce Berg  
 Ardella Brecke  
 Robert Chase  
 Jay Christensen  
 Clarence Engwall  
 Barbara Ferguson  
 Elaine Folkert  
 Connor Graham  
 David Hudson

James Isaacson  
 Jane Johnson  
 Ray Johnson  
 Marjean Kittleson  
 Laura LaPointe  
 Beverly Larrison  
 Ronald Larson  
 Gordy Lundskow

Evelyn Meki  
 Maurice Meyer  
 Shirley Nielsen  
 Joyce Ohr  
 Rev. Robert Onkka  
 GayAnn Preston  
 Rosella Salley  
 Eileen Spring  
 Elva Steffenson  
 David Tritten  
 Janis Wobschall  
 Harold Zempel



# ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA



**Sunday, January 31, 2021**

**Welcome**

**Opening Devotions**

**Approval of Minutes from Annual Meeting, January 26, 2020**

**Elections**

**Reports**

1. Lead Pastor
2. President/Church Council
3. Special Accounts
4. Treasurer

**Approval of 2021 Budget**

**Unfinished Business**

**New Business**

1. Other New Business

**Closing Prayer**

# MINUTES FROM THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

**CALL TO ORDER** - President Mark Smith called the Bethel Annual meeting to order in the Bethel sanctuary. A Declaration of Quorum was acknowledged. The Bethel Youth were thanked for providing lunch for everyone. Opening devotions were given by Pastor Bandel.

**MINUTES** from the 2019 Annual Meeting were approved.

**SPECIAL BENEVOLENCE** opportunities were introduced by Tammy Gross. The three ministries on which the congregation will vote were: The Landing (street outreach in Rochester), Augsburg Health Commons (provide services focusing on identifying health concerns of the community), Growing Home (students can experience real world application to the skills they are learning in the classroom through running a school farm). The Congregation voted by paper ballots.

## ELECTIONS

**CHURCH COUNCIL POSITIONS** - Vice President – Marissa Guggisberg, Secretary – Adam Holz, Worship & Music Board Representative – Sue Garcia, Christian Education Board Representative – Bianca DeLone.

## ELECTED TEAMS

- Nominating Team (2 year term, 2022) – Lin Gentling and Sue Christian.
- Personnel Team (3 year term, 2023) – Kellie Wendland and Ardell Brede.
- Endowment Team (3 year term, 2023) – Bruce Remme and Lori Meyer.
- Columbarium Board (3 year term, 2023) – Brian Ellsworth and Ardell Olson
- Synod Assembly Voting Members (1 year term, 2021)
  - Females: Vanessa Rosolak, Kathy Tri, Kim Gross, Carmen Zwicker.
  - Males: Mike Rosolak, Greg Hagen, Jim Gross, Paul Wittmer.
  - Youth: Ethan Ledebuhr and Gabby Ashton.
  - Alternates: Jeff Setterlund, Bev Setterlund, Russ Shores, Marlys Shores.

All of the above candidates were approved by the Congregation.

## REPORTS

### > EXECUTIVE PASTOR'S REPORT - REV. DR NORMAN WAHL

Pastor Wahl spoke of his pending retirement in October and the transition when he leaves. He applied for a Sabbatical last summer and received it. During this time, he studied Lutheran churches and the transition period. Pastor Wahl presented a paper to the Church Council about this and that paper is now being used by the Call Committee. Long-term planning for this period is necessary to keep the Church strong. This Church is not about a Pastor but about doing the work of Jesus Christ. Statistics point to shrinking churches in Jesus Christ. A large portion of people listed their Church as none.

People are attending church and giving to the church less and are finding more things to do on Sunday mornings. Simply put, there is a lack of commitment to attending church. However, we at Bethel are continuing to grow in stewardship and serving others, near and far. We continue to have a strong staff. We are blessed with exceptional people. We shall continue to serve in the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

### > CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT: MARK SMITH

It's been another great and exciting year to be a member at Bethel and to be on the Council. First, I would like to address your great generosity through Bethel. As you can see in the Mission Team's report, about \$133,000 went to 30 missions, both locally and around the world. This does not include the Bihar project. There were also non-cash gifts to places such as Channel One and Food for Kidz. Our youth also gave to missions.

One of the Council goals this year was to expand on Bethel's sharing of the love of Christ by helping those in need, through partnerships with a focus on the needs of the homeless and low income in our community. You can see examples of what Bethel is already doing, such as gifts to Warming House and Next Chapter Ministries. But there is more that we can do as Bethel members and individually to meet those growing needs in our community. Another Council goal was to expand the use of technology to share God's message and Bethel's stories/opportunities with our community and members. This year we transitioned to a new Bethel Connect website and mobile application built on Realm software. I encourage you to use the tool to help plan, communication, and coordinate with fellow members.

The Council would like to thank the Pastors and staff for all their leadership and work to keep Bethel running smoothly, so we can all engage in worship, learning, music, helping those in need, and fellowship. We also want to thank all the team members, who take on the challenges and opportunities. If you are not already on a team, think about joining in the near future. It is not only a rewarding way to help do God's work but it is also a great way to meet and have some fun with fellow members.

We would especially like to thank the outgoing members of the Council. Dave Moen, Council representative for Worship and Music. Dave has served two terms for a total of six years. Next, we would like to thank Karen Hartman, Vice President, who has served two terms for a total of four years. Next, thank you to Mary Hunt, Secretary, who has served for two years.

Finally, the Council would like to thank all of you in this great congregation for your participation in worship on teams, volunteering, mission support, prayers, and financial gifts. We are truly laying the foundation for the next 150 years!

### > SPECIAL ACCOUNTS - TERRA O'BRIEN, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR FOR BETHEL

The Special Accounts are listed on page 26 and 27 in the Annual Report and are separate from the General Operating Funds. Special Purpose Funds are carried over year to year. On page 26 – 27, you can see money that was spent on repairs, upgrading restrooms, 150th Anniversary, etc. Thank you for your special contributions at Bethel.



## > TREASURER REPORT

On page 21 is listed the Endowment Accounts. The total now is at \$1,945,471.47. On page 22, is the mortgage which is \$1,833,205. If things go accordingly, this should be paid off in 2024. On page 23-25, is the 2019 General Fund Budget showing total contributions income was about \$18,500 greater than 2018 but almost \$31,000 (2.4%) short of the budget. Rental income exceeded the budget by \$3,768. Total income was \$1,406,790 which was almost \$19,000 greater than in 2018 but also about \$29,000 short of the budget. Total expenses were \$1,399,202, which was a little more than \$36,000 under budget. The biggest items of savings were as follows:

- Total Salaries & Staff Expenses (10,769 under budget – mostly due to Lay Staff Social Security payments and staff expenses)
- Anniversary Celebration (no funds were needed from the general fund and a little more than \$9,500 was budgeted)
- Postage (\$1,750 under budget)
- Natural Gas (only \$1,800 was spent and \$8,000 was budgeted. Bethel was informed of a large credit that covered this expense for most of 2019). This won't be repeated in 2020, however
- Mortgage Supplement \$5,000 less than budget was spent from the General Fund to make mortgage payments)

Net income on operations was favorable for 2019 at \$7,587.00.

## > 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Cindy Bahler, who was the Chairman of this Committee, reported that Faith Family, and Friends was the theme for the 150th Anniversary. Thank you to the team, Cindy Bahler, Julie Anderson, Jackie Ladsten, Angie Marketon, Stephanie Putzier, Jim Weaver, Pastor Wahl, and Pastor Bandel. There were four things that we did for the 150th anniversary. First, we had a Carnival in May, Rochester Fest Parade in June, Bethel Day at the Honkers Game in July, and the dinner program at the Event Center in August. It was wonderful to have twelve past pastors attend the dinner!

## > CALL COMMITTEE

Chairman, Brian Ellsworth. The Committee members are: Brian Ellsworth, Mark Smith, Sue Lundquist, Cindy Boese, Terry Wiltsie, Nicole Iverson, Bruce Gudlin, and Olivia Lamb. We are meeting weekly and have almost completed the Ministry Profile Survey. The five top ministry tasks for a minister voted on by the congregation were: Administration, Recruit and Equip Leaders, Strategic Mission Planning, Building a Sense of Community, and Preaching/Worship. The next five essential gifts were: Provide care and nurture, be skilled in planning and leading programs, have a strong commitment and loyalty to the Lutheran Church, deal effectively with conflict, and bring joy and good humor to relationships.

## > BETHEL CONNECT

Sherry Kallembach stated that after using Bethel Connect for several years, a Team was formed to look at which computer programs were used by other Lutheran churches. In August, we had a soft roll out of the Realm system and in September, it was opened to the Congregation. We are still learning how to use Realm. There are four things each of us can enjoy from Realm Bethel Connect – privacy (we choose

who sees our information), update profile (we can update our own profile at any time), access to financial giving and easy to use from your telephone, the fourth one is that it provides communication between different teams at Bethel.

## > THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

Melissa Lamb spoke of the two-day mission trip in Rochester last year for which we used the Thrivent grants. The grants are in the amount of \$250. They are used to buy food for the Hope Lodge and McDonald House, socks for the Dorothy Day House, cookies for the Gift of Life, and hometown soldiers gratitude packages. Members can write two grants per year. We are very grateful for the Thrivent grants.

## PRESENTATION OF THE 2020 BUDGET

Steve Berland stated that for 2020 the total projected income was \$1,470,000, Total projected missions was \$50,520 and total expenses are set at \$1,470,000 (pages 23 – 25). He asked if there were any questions and there were none. There was a unanimous vote to accept the proposed budget.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

**NEW BUSINESS** - Mark Smith discussed the changes in our by-laws which were proposed by Bill Bakken. The changes are as follows:

The Bethel Constitution Chapter 11 Officers of the Congregation section C11.02 a) states “Duties of the officers shall be specified in the by-laws.”

It was found that these officer duty descriptions were accidentally removed from the by-laws at the time when the council roles were redefined some years ago. It was also found that the by-laws still used the term “Executive Committee” which was no longer valid after that same council role change. Thank you to Bill Bakken for finding these errors.

Below is an added part to the by-laws to follow part VI The Annual Meeting. The subsequent parts will need to be renumbered.

### PART VII – OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

1. The officers of the congregation shall be president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. To be elected to the office, the officers shall have been a member of Bethel for two years and be an active participant in the life of Bethel.
2. The president shall preside over all meetings of the congregation and of the church council and carry out other duties appropriate to a chief executive officer.
3. The vice-president shall preside over meetings of the congregation and church council in the absence of the president. The vice-president shall assume the duties of the president in case of incapacity or resignation of the president until the next annual meeting of the congregation.
4. The secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the congregation and the church council.

5. The treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds of the congregation and shall disburse those funds in accordance with the decisions of the congregation and the church council with the exception of the funds of various authorized auxiliary organizations of the congregation. They shall present an audited report at the annual congregational meeting and such other reports to the church council as may be required. The business administrator shall assist the treasurer in the daily business affairs of the congregation. The financial secretary shall assist in the counting and depositing weekly offerings.

The following change will be made to remove the reference to executive committee:

#### PART III - MEMBERSHIP

##### 4. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

The following procedure shall be followed under the direction of the Pastor(s) and the ~~Executive Committee~~ *Church Council*.

#### PART VI - THE ANNUAL MEETING

3. The ~~Executive committee~~ *Executive Pastor* shall be responsible for insuring that the roster of the voting, confirmed, and baptized members is up to date.

The motion was seconded and approved. There was a unanimous vote to accept changes.

A statement was raised about needing more help with ushering, needing more acolytes, and greeters. Everyone was urged to volunteer.

#### **OTHER NEW BUSINESS** - None

#### **SPECIAL BENEVOLENCE**

Tammy Gross gave the results of the vote for distribution of the Special Benevolence funds. The Landing will receive \$2500, Growing Home will receive \$1500, and the Augsburg Health Commons will receive \$1,000.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Motion was made to adjourn, this was seconded and approved. President Smith thanked everyone for attending.

Pastor Burggraaf closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Mary Hunt, Bethel Church Council Secretary**

# BETHEL LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

- JUNE 7, 2020 -

## MINUTES OF VIRTUAL MEETING HOSTED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARK SMITH

Mark opened the meeting with a prayer.

A brief history of the call process was outlined. In 2018 Pastor Wahl met about a transition/retirement plan, with the decision to retirement being declared in 2019. In the fall of 2019, a task force was created for an effective change of the Executive Pastor. Potential members of a call committee were discussed in October, with the formation of the committee taking place in November. Also, in November an announcement letter from Pastor Wahl regarding his intentions, went out to the congregation members. After preliminary research and discussion with potential candidates, Pastor Anjanette was interviewed February 4th, 2020. On February 25th, the call committee made the recommendation to the council to call Pastor Anjanette as the next Executive Pastor. A congregational meeting was planned for March 22nd to vote on this call. This meeting was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In coordination with the Synod, Bethel made the decision to proceed with a virtual meeting to avoid more delays.

Brian Ellsworth formally introduced the call committee's recommendation of Pastor Anjanette.

Questions were taken following the recommendation. These questions are included below.

**How many candidates were interviewed?** Based upon early conversations with the limited number of eligible pastors, it was decided to proceed with the interview of Pastor Anjanette. The call committee continued, based upon guidance from the Synod, to focus on high quality candidates once they have been identified. This resulted in Pastor Anjanette being the only interviewee.

**What will the role of the outgoing Executive Pastor be?** The transition team will aid in the level of involvement of the outgoing Executive Pastor.

**Is there an age limit for voting members?** There is not a state statute, but Bethel allows all confirmed members to vote, except for in unique situations such as land purchases.

**Will a signature required to vote?** Members do not have to sign their ballot. Members will simply mark yes or no based upon their preference.

**How was the call committee chosen?** The council chose individuals familiar with the requirements for the job and the job description.

**What biblical characteristics does Pastor Anjanette possess that makes her a good fit for the position?** Her loving caring and forgiveness will allow her to continue to build on what is established, while growing Bethel as a congregation and within the community.

**Will there be any other staff changes?** While duties may change, there are no planned staff changes. We will need to call a new associate Pastor. The council will begin to assemble names to be on this committee in June.

**What is required for the measure to pass?** A two thirds majority vote is required for the measure to pass.

Members who have been confirmed and attended/listened to this congregational meeting may vote. Attendance was taken to record those who participated. Voting will be Sunday June 7th from 11 am until 2 pm and June 8th from 4 pm until 6 pm.

Pastor Jason closed with a prayer.

The final count of votes was 370 Yes and 25 No.

Adam Holz | Church Council Secretary

# BETHEL LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

- JANUARY 10, 2021 -

## MINUTES OF VIRTUAL MEETING HOSTED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARK SMITH

Mark opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Chair of the Call Committee Jeff Vomhoff outlined the course followed by the call committee in its search to fill the open position of Associate Pastor of Generational Ministries. This process included soliciting feedback from congregational members about what strengths they desire to see in a Pastor. Five candidates were selected to interview for the position. These interviews were conducted virtually. Upon completion of these initial interviews, two candidates were asked to return for a second interview. The second interview had both virtual and in-person components. After review of each candidate's paperwork, service videos and reference checks, the selected candidate, Pastor Nathan (Nate) Luong and his family visited Rochester on December 5th. They were given a tour of Bethel and the Rochester area. The Call Committee's recommendation to the Bethel Church Council was approved on December 8th. Pastor Nate has a bachelor's degree from Augsburg College and a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary. His first call was at Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Peter, MN as Associate Pastor – Children, Youth and Families. He left that position to accept his current call as Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Sleepy Eye, MN. After an introduction to Pastor Luong's family, his hobbies and interests were described. The Call Committee believes his ministry gifts matched Bethel's top ministry needs. Attributes they praised include Pastor Nate's confidence and approachability, his strong preaching and communication skills, as well as his experience with multiple generations.

Questions were taken following the recommendation. These questions are included below.

**How will Pastor Nate help bring diversity to Bethel?** Pastor Nate envisions connecting all age groups at Bethel. He also volunteers to assist with refugee settlement with Lutheran Social Services. This cause has extra meaning as Pastor Nate's father was a refugee from Vietnam.

**What are the next steps in the process?** A vote will be held, and the results will be announced at that time. Pastor Nate has indicated he would give his congregation 30 days' notice before leaving his current position.

**Is Pastor Nate a musician?** Pastor Nate enjoys using a variety of music in his services. He does have a little guitar experience as well.

**Did he meet with Bethel CYF?** Pastor Nate did meet with the CYF team from Bethel. The team provided favorable feedback on their time together with Pastor Nate.

**What references were contacted?** Multiple individuals, both inside and outside his current congregation were contacted to provide additional insight on Pastor Nate.

**Why is Pastor Nate seeking a change?** Pastor Nate has been a solo Pastor for a number of years and desires to be part of a ministry team.

**Does he have a sense humor?** In addition to a sense of humor, Pastor Nate is approachable and easy going.

**Will this affect the current Pastor's responsibilities?** The current staff has been shifting their workload to complete the additional tasks this vacant position created. This hire will allow them to return to their normal focus.

**Will he bring energy and ideas?** Pastor Nate is willing to try new things in a new and fun way. He has strong technical skills that he has used to keep his congregation active during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Will he assist with the Youth Pastor search?** If it makes sense for Pastor Nate to contribute, he will be asked to do so.

Members who have been confirmed and attended/listened to this congregational meeting may vote. Attendance was taken to record those who participated. Voting will be Sunday January 10th from 2 pm until 4 pm and January 11th from 4:30 pm until 6 pm. Ballot pick is available for those who do not drive.

Pastor Anjanette closed with a prayer. The final count of votes was 239 Yes and 1 No.

Adam Holz | Church Council Secretary



# PASTORS' REPORT

## - 2020 VISION -

This year our Lenten Theme was “2020: Perfect Vision in Christ.” While it seemed a clever way to maximize the numerical reference of the year, it also pointed to how there is a promise we have in Christ that allows for all things to be possible and perfected in Jesus Christ. As this annual report allows for reflection on the year in ministry at Bethel, it appears that it is in the looking back at 2020 that we “see things” more clearly. We are made aware that while we live in an imperfect world crippled by a worldwide pandemic, the one constant will continue to be the good news given to us in Jesus Christ. As our Advent devotional theme this year expressed, Jesus is our “Hope and Expectation.”

Much of what would normally be included in this Pastors' report is more fully explained in the report from our Church Council President Mark Smith and a Pastoral Transition report. Both are lengthy but well worth your time to review. It has been a year like no other and each report recaps the significance of this year in our learning and growth. Bethel anticipated a pastoral transition with the announced retirement of Pastor Norman Wahl to be in effect in October of 2020. However, we couldn't have imagined that congregational meetings to call new pastoral leadership would need to involve creatively blending on-line gatherings and drive-in casting of ballots! Bethel anticipated that each year would bring its own challenges and joys. However, we couldn't have imagined our first Holy Week and Easter Sunday with a statewide stay-at-home order due to the Coronavirus that would mean an empty sanctuary for the purpose of keeping our congregants well in a pandemic.

20/20 vision is a term used to express normal visual acuity (the clarity or sharpness of vision) measured at a distance of 20 feet. Much of this year has meant daily navigating a limited vision as to what is next. This has provided challenges to Bethel, but also great possibilities in the way we engage the congregation. Enormous thanks to the strong leadership of the Bethel Church Council and, in particular, to Mark Smith who has been nimble, creative, persistent, and thoughtful in helping Bethel lead virtual meetings and serving on the Reengagement Task Force. Additionally, the Bethel staff has been able to pivot and creatively adapt to ministry that not one of us was trained to do in our various areas. However, through collaborative leadership and prayerful guidance the staff was able to accomplish multiple new and meaningful ways to connect with members and our community.

Our staff did experience change in the past year with the retirement of Pastor Wahl as well as the resignation of Tyler Schonrock, High School Ministry Director, and Elizabeth Weaver, full-time custodian, and the retirement of Bill Freytag, Properties Supervisor, who had served on staff for 25 years. We are grateful for all of these faithful servants and their ministry. We trust that 2021 will bring us additions to the staff that will continue to help Bethel carry out its mission and ministry.

While it is also said that “hindsight is 20/20,” we know that much of this pandemic is still yet to be lived out. We await the distribution of a vaccine that will help us resume normalcy in the life of our congregation and yet we will forever be gleaning new insights into what this past year has made possible for Bethel’s future. Through it all the Bethel congregation has remained resilient and adapted to new ways to worship, online meetings with ministry teams, supporting and praying for one another in Christian love, and generously giving of finances to keep our ministry vibrant and healthy.

Bethel is blessed with abundant resources and faithful followers of Christ. We are honored to serve as your pastors and to continue to lift up through Word and sacrament the perfect vision given in Christ alone.

Your pastors,



**Rev. Anjanette  
Bandel**



**Rev. Jason  
Burggraff**

\*We invite you to read Pastor Linda Helberg’s visitations report. We are grateful for her partnership and faithful ministry of visitation and serving communion to our homebound members.

# PASTOR'S VISITATIONS REPORT

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

From a prison cell, the Apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians, "For I have learned to be content in whatever circumstance I find myself." (Philippians 4:11) For many, life has resembled a prison cell this year with the necessary restrictions brought on by COVID-19. Anxiety and fear could have consumed us but Paul reminds us that as people of faith we are able to live with a sense of contentment and even joy in circumstances that could hold us captive.

At the same time I never want to repeat 2020, I find that I have been inspired by the emotional and spiritual strength of the home bound and their families. New innovative ways of loving were called for as the reality of isolation set in and the home bound were cut off from the physical contact of loved ones. The toll taken by the loss of that contact can not be measured but families did the best they could making contact in safe ways through the use of technology and even faithful window visits at care facilities.

As expected, ministry to the home bound does not resemble that same ministry at this time last year. In January and February, it was "business as usual" as I made communion visits to some 60 individuals on my list. In March, we all became home bound with the restrictions of the Pandemic. Personal visits were replaced primarily with phone calls "just to see how it is going" and devotions and prayer over the phone. While the telephone was the only way for some to communicate, others were able to effectively use email, tablets and computers to access worship services and faith inspiration. Zoom became common enabling residents to gather with family members, be introduced to new grandchildren and celebrate milestone events like graduations.

This year has been a huge challenge for long term care facilities as they attempted to keep residents safe, communicate with family members and care for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of residents. They have met the challenge with grace and I have great respect and admiration for what they have done.

In later summer and fall, when the weather permitted (not too hot or too cold), I was able to make 70 outdoor communion visits. How I longed to visit once again and the joy I felt as we shared conversation and the sacrament. But the weather became more winter like and it was back to primarily telephone calls.

Thank you for your part in caring for the home bound through Easter Lilies, Poinsettias, wonderful Advent cards made by the youth, prayer shawls, telephone contacts made by Care Callers, prayers and so many other ways I have failed to list. It all adds up to a lot of love from you as a congregation and individually.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving in what I regard as is a deeply rewarding ministry. Working closely with the Pastors and Cheri Brinson, we attempt to keep trace of those in need of visits and ask for your help in letting us know when someone could benefit from visits. May God's grace continue to sustain in 2021.



Your Partner in Ministry,  
**Rev. Linda Helberg**

# PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION'S REPORT

## - BETHEL DURING A PANDEMIC -

Years from now members may look back and wonder how Bethel managed during the 2020 global pandemic, hence this report.

In mid-March much of the country had to “shut down” and Bethel had to find new ways to worship and carry out its missions. Our members were dealing with sickness, job-loss, fear, loneliness, isolation, and broken plans. Many of our members were “front line workers” and risking their own health to provide for others.

The Bethel Reengagement Task Force was created May 17th to develop a plan and make decisions on how we would move forward. Pastor Anjanette Bandel served as chairperson of the team and original members to the team included Church Council representation by Mark Smith and Mitch Anderson, Parish Nurse Kathy Ferguson, Staff members, Sheri Kallembach and Terra O'Brien, Pastor Wahl and Pastor Burggraff. The Task Force read guidelines from the CDC, state, ELCA and other institutions. Parish Nurse Kathy Ferguson was especially a key resource for digging into the details and reaching out for more answers when needed from medical professionals.

On May 29th the task force completed a COVID-19 Preparedness plan as required by the state. Pastor Wahl began weekly meetings with local congregation leadership and exchanged ideas with other congregations throughout the nation as to how to respond in this time. Meetings were held weekly at 8am on Tuesday mornings via Zoom. We did not always all agree at first on what options to use as we discussed risks and benefits. As we faced difficult decisions we were united in our common goals of achieving our mission and protecting the health of our members, staff, and volunteers. The SE MN Synod later said that we needed to have patience, compassion, flexibility, and creativity. We think we demonstrated these qualities during a highly stressful time. We tried to communicate our often quickly evolving plans and we apologized for the times we were not able to reach everyone very effectively. Thankfully Bethel had multiple platforms available for communication to members and over time we developed even more options for those not inclined to use internet based communication.

## WORSHIP

Our highest priority was worship. Online worship services prior to the shut down were recorded and then posted on our website for viewing. It was only due to the pandemic that we began to livestream worship services. Our Palm Sunday service, April 5th, was the first time we began to offer the livestream option for worship. Filming and posting Holy Week service and Mid-Week worship services in Lent were also a new development in this time so that members would be able to worship while Minnesota was under a Stay-At-Home order. A big thank you to the Communications Team who worked quickly to make these technological changes happen. For some members who did not have online access, DVDs were provided to them.

Many members wanted an option for receiving Holy Communion so parking lot Drive-in Worship with Holy Communion began being offered on June 3rd. Through the use of an FM transmitter and equipment that helped us to connect keyboards, musicians, and eventually the organ, this meaningful worship with communion was provided for Bethel members and visitors. Initially four services were offered throughout the summer at 9am, 12 noon, 4pm, and 7pm. The Gate of Life Band lead the evening service and the service held a more contemporary feel than the previous three services containing a traditional hymn. Each worship service was an abbreviated worship experience but contained consistent elements of Confession/Forgiveness, scripture, a homily, music, communion and a blessing. These services became very popular even though the Pastors, staff, and volunteers had to deal with heat, wind, and cold. To make the worship services sustainable we offered them bi-weekly. As the seasons changed, there were 3 services offered beginning in the fall at 9am, 12 noon, and 6pm. At the writing of this report these services continue to be held regularly and continue to be well attended.

On July 5th, we started in-person worship with a limit of 25 members to test our safety procedures and sign-up process. We gradually increased the limit up to 150 and in August added a Saturday night in-person service. To put this in some perspective, Bethel's average weekend attendance in our four worship hours is over 900 in normal times. These were shortened services with masks, checklists, physical-distancing, no bulletins, no hymnals, no communion, limited congregational singing, and extensive cleaning. Many volunteers were needed for each service and we are grateful for those who repeatedly served and especially to Parish Nurse Kathy Ferguson and Membership Coordinator Sheri Kallembach for diligent weekly work at these services.

In October with the retirement of Pastor Wahl and a request from Mitch Anderson to step down from the Reengagement Task Force, two new members were added to the task force. Sue Garcia stepped in representing Council and the Worship and Music Team. Doug Boese joined the team as a recommendation by Pastor Wahl to fill his spot on the team. Many thanks to all who have served on this Task Force in these many months. None of us could have imagined that even 10 months later we would still be meeting almost weekly for important conversations and decisions.

In mid-November, the Task Force decided to suspend the in-person worship option as well as many other in-person groups due to a large spike in Covid cases in Rochester. Thanksgiving worship was live-streamed. A bi-weekly Sunday morning parking lot drive-in worship service with Holy Communion at 9:30 am was added to reach members who wanted a Sunday in-person option or who had not been able to worship on Wednesdays. Response to these Sunday options has also been greatly received. Returning to in-person worship is being assessed for early 2021.

Advent and Christmas at Bethel included innovative ways to proclaim the Christmas Good News! Advent at Home kits were distributed to all ages at the start of the season. A Drive-Thru Nativity replaced the children's Christmas program and had a wonderful response with participation of volunteers, with those who drove through to enjoy the



narrated Christmas story by our Bethel children, and with money raised for Channel One. Three drive-in worship services with Holy Communion were offered on Christmas Eve and were accompanied by single digit temperatures. A specially produced video was prepared in advance of Christmas Eve and posted on our website on Christmas Eve. A premiere of the video featuring Bethel musicians and members serving in worship leadership was released at 6 pm on Christmas Eve. DVD copies of the Christmas Eve service were distributed to 80 households who did not have internet access to view the service online. Many thanks to Brock Besse and Rachel Hasley for many hours dedicated to producing this amazing worship experience.

## FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS

Funerals and weddings were initially delayed or held with very limited attendance following the established guidelines. Attendance limits increased by mid-summer as we enacted our safety procedures. It was very difficult for families suffering a loss to not be able to gather with all who wished to be there to celebrate the life of a beloved family member or friend. Among those we grieved in this time was Bethel's beloved retired visitation Pastor Robert Onkka who died on October 9th. We will miss his smiling greeting every Sunday morning and many of us would have loved to have been able to gather together for his funeral service and to honor his life and ministry.

## MUSIC

Led by Brock Besse, music groups learned how to make self-produced videos of themselves singing. These individual videos were compiled to make special music presentations that could be used in the online and in-person services. Brock even created a "recording studio" in the music room with appropriate safety precautions so that musicians could come in to Bethel and be recorded if they preferred to have someone else make the recording. However, the loss of in-person practice and worship participation was difficult for both the musicians and members.

## EDUCATION

Our Sunday Morning Education, youth groups, bible study, and adult education all had to initially move to online options. At home kits were provided throughout the year to enhance the online education. As we started to open up for in-person worship there were also limited attendance options for in-person education and Sunday school. The Bethel library also modeled the Rochester Public Library's option of a convenient pick-up service of reserved books and media.

## CHURCH BUSINESS

Staff and team members quickly learned to carry out Bethel's business from home. As safety measures were put in place in the building and office, there was some limited staff and team work at Bethel. The office was open to members for limited hours on June 1st. Other organizations that rent space from Bethel, such as Augsburg University, were also impacted by our need to follow the state guidelines.

In March, the state shut down was just 6 days before our special congregational meeting to call a lead pastor. The meeting was rescheduled to June 7th and done as a Zoom meeting and parking lot drive-in voting. We plan to use remote (Zoom) congregational meetings again in January 2021 for a special meeting to call our third pastor (Jan 10th) and the annual meeting (Jan 31st). Even though we were not meeting in person, the members of Bethel did not stop in giving their financial gifts. This, along with some government COVID aid, allowed us to keep our entire staff and continue in our missions. Thank you!

## FELLOWSHIP

We know many of our members suffered loneliness and felt isolated when we could no longer meet in person and socialize. This was evident when we did start up limited in-person worship as it was hard for people to stay 6 feet apart. Care callers and other communications were started to help with this but were no substitute for the fellowship we are used to. A printed weekly newsletter called “Bethel Connections” took the Bethel e-news online format and made it accessible via a box outside the building for members to pick up at their convenience. In December and January “Bethel Special Deliveries” began to send a bi-weekly “thinking of you” communication to those who do not have e-mail.

Trips and large gatherings were cancelled, held online, or postponed, including mission trips, education, Christmas Tea, Food for Kidz, Bethel's Italy trip, and many more.

Unfortunately, Pastor Norman Wahl's last seven months at Bethel before his retirement could not be celebrated as we had hoped. My thanks to the Celebration Task Force for creating a great day of celebration even with the pandemic restrictions. With reserved seating we were able to social-distance 250 people in the sanctuary for the event. During the week before Pastor Wahl's last Sunday in worship, he and Kathy had opportunities for members to talk with them in scheduled small outside meetings.

Even though we faced one of the more challenging years of our lifetimes, we can be so thankful Jesus has been looking over us and giving us strength to find new ways to overcome adversity. We learned to do so much online. We found we needed to reach out more to those who could not come to us. The Pastors, staff, and volunteers did a great job of overcoming obstacles and continuing our mission in these difficult times.

We are optimistic about 2021 in how our Lord, members, and staff have brought us through 2020. We will do even better in the future from what we have learned.

God bless,

**Mark Smith**  
Council President

# 2020 PASTORAL TRANSITION REPORT

Among the many things remembered about the year 2020 will be the significant transition of our pastoral leadership team at Bethel. October 2020 would include the retirement of Rev. Dr. Norman Wahl who had faithfully served Bethel for over 24 years. While there was anticipation of this transition, no one could have expected a global pandemic and the way in which Bethel would need to pivot and adapt to plans and circumstances in order for us to have a smooth transition to new leadership.

In 2019, Pastor Wahl announced his plans to retire in the fall of 2020. The intent of this early announcement was to allow Bethel additional time to prepare for new leadership. The Bethel Council looked at how to best work through this transition and an Executive Pastor Call Committee was formed in November 2019. Members of Executive Pastor Call Committee included Chairperson, Brian Ellsworth, and members: Cindy Boese, Bruce Gudlin, Nicole Iverson, Olivia Lamb, Susan Lundquist, Mark Smith and Terry Wiltsie.

Through prayerful and thoughtful discernment on the part of the Executive Pastor Call Committee candidates were considered and it was determined that an internal call was the clear direction of the future leadership of Bethel.

In February 2020, the Church Council approved the Executive Pastor Call Committee recommendation of Pastor Anjanette Bandel who had been serving for 12 years as Bethel's Pastor of Visitation, Outreach, and Mission. A congregational meeting was scheduled on March 22, 2020, but had to be cancelled due to the Minnesota state shutdown for the coronavirus pandemic. The Council and Call Committee prepared a plan for a remote (Zoom) meeting to be held on June 7, 2020. This was a first for Bethel and involved a practice meeting a week in advance to prepare members to participate in this electronic means of meeting. Drive-in parking lot voting, to meet the requirement for a written ballot, occurred on that Sunday afternoon and Monday. The meeting was attended by over 400 Bethel members with 370 voting yes and 25 voting no to call Pastor Anjanette Bandel to the position of Bethel Executive Pastor. Pastor Bandel would begin her new position in October 2020 upon the retirement of Pastor Wahl.

Since the uniqueness of an internal call being extended to current staff, there would be important work to accomplish in determining a next step for an additional pending vacancy to the pastoral team. In July, a Transition Task Force was formed to work with the Church Council toward a successful leadership transition. Members were Pastor Anjanette Bandel, Pastor Jason Burggraff, Jim Bahler, Kristi LaPlante, Ryan Ledebuhr, Susan Lundquist, Marlys Shores, and Mark Smith.

With this leadership transition came a great opportunity to review the roles and responsibilities of the three pastor positions, taking into account the leadership change and the passions and strengths of our pastors. New job titles and job descriptions were written and approved by the Transition Task Force, the Personnel Committee and the Church Council and are as follows:

**Rev. Anjanette Bandel, *Lead Pastor***, will provide direction for the comprehensive mission and goals of Bethel Lutheran Church and will have primary responsibility for the leadership and direction of the church staff. The lead pastor provides leadership and direction to the Minister of Music, Business Administrator, Communication Director and the Membership Coordinator. Pastor Anjanette will guide the work of the Church Council, Endowment Team, Stewardship Team, Finance Team, Personnel Team, Worship and Music Team, Communication Team (messaging) and of welcoming new members to the congregation.

**Rev. Jason Burggraff, *Associate Pastor – Education***, will take the lead in education content across all of Bethel's ministries. In addition, he will lead the visitation efforts for all Bethel members in need. He will provide leadership and direction to the Visitation Pastor, Parish Nurse and Director of the Gate of Life Service. Pastor Jason will help guide the work of the Adult Education Team, Devotional Team, Gate of Life Leadership Team, Men's Ministry, Health Cabinet, Bethel Women, Communications Team (technical) and the Properties Team.

**Open, *Associate Pastor – Generational Ministry***, is the position for which the current Call Committee is searching. This pastor will develop and expand a ministry designed to connect and engage multiple generations at Bethel, and to reach out through social missions to the Rochester community and the world with service and God's Word. This will include guiding and nurturing an already vibrant Children, Youth and Family ministry and expanding innovative outreach to young adults and families, while working alongside ministries to older generations and guiding Bethel's outreach. The position provides leadership and direction to the Children, Youth and Family (CYF) staff and Nursery Coordinator. This pastor will guide the work of the Fellowship Team, Social Missions Team, Neighborhood Outreach Team and Young In Spirit Fellowship.

In August, Bethel's Church Council formed a Call Committee for the position of Associate Pastor-Generational Ministries including Chair, Jeff Vomhof, and members: Art Larson, Paul Christian, Toni Fabian, Marissa Guggisberg, Michelle Bouquet, Ethan Petersilie and Paul Velsor. The Call Committee revised Bethel's Ministry Site Profile and spent September through November interviewing candidates for the position.

Sunday, October 11th was Pastor Wahl's official last Sunday preaching at Bethel as the Executive Pastor. In the afternoon of October 11th there was a great celebration of Pastor Wahl's faithful ministry to Bethel as well as his full 41 years as a called and ordained pastor of Word and Sacrament Ministry. The day was declared *Pastor Norman Wahl Day* in Rochester by Mayor Kim Norton. Pastor Wahl was given the very special honorary title of Bethel Pastor Emeritus to recognize all that he has accomplished over the last 24 years at Bethel and conveys that he has had a special impact on Bethel and the community of Rochester. We believe he is only the second Pastor to receive this honor from Bethel.

While still navigating a pandemic, plans surrounding Pastor Wahl's celebration were revised to be attentive to the health and wellness of Bethel members. Many thanks to the celebration team: Cindy and Jim Bahler, Pastor Anjanette Bandel, Steve Berland, Cindy and Doug Boese, Ardell Brede, Sue and Paul Christian, Pastor Linda Helberg, and Jackie Ladsten. The creative and thoughtful opportunities given to members and to Pastor and Kathy Wahl to say good-byes and to also be celebrated were remarkable under the circumstances.

On November 15th, Rev. Anjanette K Bandel was installed as Bethel's Lead Pastor. Assistant to the Bishop, Emily Carson, served as representative to the Bishop's Office to officiate at the installation. Yet again, the reality of a global pandemic would mean that in-person worship opportunities were suspended as of the weekend of the installation. Adapting to this reality meant that a livestream broadcast of the worship service including the installation occurred, as well as Bethel's first Sunday morning parking lot Drive-In Worship with Holy Communion. While mid-week Drive-In worship services had been held since June, there had not been a Sunday morning worship service of this variety held until Pastor Anjanette's installation. On December 6th, while still under restrictions related to the pandemic, another Sunday Drive-In Worship was held and included the installation of Pastor Jason Burggraaf into his new position as Associate Pastor-Education.

The Bethel Call Committee for the position of Associate Pastor-Generational Ministries determined its final candidate of choice and he was approved by the Bethel Church Council. A virtual (Zoom) congregational meeting and drive-in voting was held on Sunday, January 10th. The meeting was well attended by about 280 Bethel members with 239 voting yes and 1 voting no to call Pastor Nate Luong to the position of Associate Pastor-Generational Ministries, starting later in February. There is great excitement as to the gifts and leadership ability of Pastor Nat to provide for Bethel's ministry in years to come.

A year only holds twelve months but these past twelve months have held an enormous amount of change for Bethel. And yet, as it is written in Hebrews 13:8 "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*" We give thanks for God's faithfulness in every season of Bethel's ministry and especially in this past year.

God bless,

**Pastor Anjanette Bandel**, Bethel Lead Pastor

**Mark Smith**, Council President



## STATEMENT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

We, the appointed Audit Committee of Bethel Lutheran Church, have audited the financial records of the following accounts, as of December 31, 2020:

- Annual Fund
- Mortgage Payment Fund
- Special Account
- Endowment
- Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- Petty Cash

The audit consisted of various tests of the receipts, disbursements, payroll, cash management, and handling of contributions and other sources of income as managed by Terra O'Brien, Business Administrator. The Audit Committee is satisfied with the presentation of the Balance Sheet & Income Statement and found nothing requiring adjustments to these reports.



Alan Anderson



David Biren



Matt Roisum

# SOCIAL MISSIONS TEAM REPORT

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
ELCA/LWR	\$47,415.00
Augsburg Health Commons	\$1,000.00
Bread for the World	\$2,000.00
Channel One/Mn.Food Share	\$5,763.00
Channel One/Nativity Drive Thru	\$2,403.27
Community Food Response	\$523.57
ELCA Good Gifts	\$350.00
ELCA World Hunger	\$4,053.57
Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network	\$8,950.00
Food for Kidz	\$15,135.06
Good Earth Village	\$5,000.00
Growing Home	\$1,500.00
International Health Partners-Zinga Children's Hospital	\$4,000.00
Latin American Lutheran Missions	\$5,300.00
Lutheran Disaster Response	\$8,000.00
Lutheran World Relief-Honduras Hurricane	\$2,000.00
Lutheran World Relief School Kits	\$50.00
Meals on Wheels	\$1,017.50
Missionary Support	\$2,000.00

Neighborhood Outreach	\$1,564.70
Next Chapter Ministries	\$4,000.00
Puerto Rico/Cristo Rey Church	\$4,000.00
Ronald McDonald House Dinner Program	\$1,017.50
Samaritan Bethany Partners	\$1,500.00
Salvation Army Warming Center	\$204.75
Tanzania School Books	\$5,068.00
The Landing	\$6,030.00
Women's Shelter	\$60.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$139,905.92</b>

# ADULT EDUCATION TEAM REPORT

The goal of the Adult Education team is to facilitate within Bethel congregation a deeper and broader understanding of Christian faith and life. To meet this goal, the team plans and coordinates an education program for Bethel adults with five content areas in mind: The Bible, Christian Ethics, Our Faith in Action, Spiritual Growth, and Our Faith in Context. The team also supports educational bus trips for Bethel members.

The Sunday Morning Adult Forum is the primary means of meeting these objectives. At the beginning of each year, the team prepares a program for the school year beginning in the fall and ending in the spring of the following year. We try to include speakers and study material within the five areas of concentration noted above. Outside speakers with various areas of expertise are contacted and scheduled and materials that can be taught, or coordinated by Bethel members are selected. Attendance at the Sunday Forum during 2018 – 2019 varied from 7 on MEA week to 54 when Pastor Wahl spoke on Church changes in 40 years. Attendance in 2020 averaged about 20 before we ended classes in March.

A brochure describing each forum session is prepared and ready to distribute on Rally Sunday of each year. Speakers are asked to allow their presentations to be video recorded. If they agree, those sessions are recorded and uploaded to the Bethel website so that members who are not able to attend can view their presentations.

The major part of the Adult Education team's budget is for speaker honoraria. Educational materials such as DVDs, coffee and refreshments for attendees, and maintenance of the projection and audio equipment in Room 115 make up the remainder of the budget. In addition to these budgeted activities, the team has used funds from the Adult Education endowment to purchase Anchor Bible volumes to complete a partial set that was donated during 2018. This on-going project was completed during 2019.

Early in the fall 2020 Adult Forums were held with social distancing. Following the Re-engagement team decision to end in person worship, the remaining Adult Forums were cancelled. Restarting the program in 2021 will depend on circumstance regarding the coronavirus. In any case, planning for Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 will begin in February or March.

We invite interested Bethel members to attend the Sunday Forum, which is held at 10:30 am in Room 115 or, if that is not practical, to view the sessions on-line at [www.bethellutheran.com](http://www.bethellutheran.com).

# ENDOWMENT REPORT

Thanks to the generosity of past and present Bethel members, the Endowment Fund has become a dependable resource used to further the mission of our church. Approximately \$90,000 has been disbursed from the fund earnings over the past three years. These disbursements have allowed Bethel to do things “above and beyond” what could have been with general budget dollars. Your donations and support are truly making difference!

Thank you to all who donated to honor Pastor Wahl upon his retirement. This was a wonderful way to recognize Norm and Kathy for their passion and contribution to the mission and people of Bethel. The donated funds to the undesignated account will allow Bethel to address the greatest needs without fund restrictions. Thank you Pastor Wahl for your leadership and care of this important aspect of Bethel.

On behalf of the Endowment Committee members, I thank you for the opportunity to serve. The Endowment Committee pledges to do our best to be caring stewards of the Endowment so that Bethel can be even more benevolent in the future.

**Ryan Ledebuhr**  
**Endowment Committee Chair**

A quick highlight of how Endowment funds have assisted with various ministries in 2020:

- 2nd Grade Stewardship “\$20 Challenge” to address needs in the community and learn the joy of giving.
- Translation of Bethel historical material from Norwegian to English for Bethel Archives
- Replacement of 20 year old tractor
- Scholarships for 6 Bethel youth to continue their education at an ELCA college
- 4th of July community drive-through event
- Conversion of 16mm film from the 100 Year Celebration Service in the Bethel Archives
- Purchase of more diverse books and other media for the Children’s Library
- Technology purchases for Children, Youth, and Family for Sunday School and virtual events
- Retirement celebration event for Pastor Norman Wahl
- Replacement landscaping along 3rd Ave SE
- Bethel Cares mailings to households without e-mails during the Christmas season
- Support to Lutheran World Relief in response to Hurricane Iota in Honduras



# ENDOWMENT ACCOUNTS TOTALS

	PRINCIPLE	ADDITIONAL PRINCIPLE	2020 INTEREST/DIVIDENDS	2020 MARKET VALUE CHANGE/FEES	ACCUMULATED USABLE MONIES	DISBURSED	DISBURSE PENDING	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
Adult Education	58,977.00	0.00	2,775.31	5,900.51	6,176.17	-743.90	0.00	73,085.10	3.34%
Children's Ministries	162,570.31	45.00	7,192.41	15,291.57	3,430.95	-2,004.81	-915.19	186,525.44	8.52%
Hirman Fellowship Endowment	37,983.65	0.00	1,729.12	3,676.23	3,458.92	-1,968.81	0.00	44,879.12	2.05%
Mundahl Music Endowment	51,327.58	615.00	2,297.63	4,884.92	1,671.04	-847.78	0.00	59,948.39	2.74%
Onkka Seminary Endowment	186,295.96	743.00	8,797.84	18,704.83	20,576.60	0.00	-15,500.00	235,118.24	10.75%
Scholarship Endowment	247,835.77	200.00	10,832.03	23,029.66	3,960.23	-3,960.00	0.00	281,897.70	12.88%
Social & Global Missions	148,079.25	0.00	6,039.09	12,839.53	4,487.45	-2,000.00	0.00	169,445.33	7.74%
Spiritual Emphasis Fund	53,062.92	0.00	2,351.16	4,998.72	1,720.41	-650.72	-849.28	61,482.49	2.81%
Structural Improvement	244,746.22	0.00	10,839.03	23,044.55	6,387.86	-6,387.00	0.00	278,630.66	12.73%
Youth Activities	86,776.84	0.00	3,810.03	8,100.38	2,270.43	0.00	0.00	100,957.68	4.61%
Undesignated Accounts	595,468.60	7,431.00	25,827.13	54,910.29	18,207.31	-5,778.05	0.00	696,066.29	31.81%
<b>BETHEL ENDOWMENT TOTAL:</b>	<b>1,873,124.10</b>	<b>9,034.00</b>	<b>82,490.80</b>	<b>175,381.21</b>	<b>72,347.37</b>	<b>-24,341.07</b>	<b>-17,264.47</b>	<b>2,188,036.41</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGET 12/31/2020

## ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS	2020	2019
General Checking	-	-
Building Fund	-	17,883
Special Checking	18,310	43,133
Special Account - Invesements	574,725	589,731
Endowment Balance	2,182,748	1,945,471
Pastor's Emergency Fund	11,261	8,233
Petty Cash Balance	466	466
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>2,787,510</b>	<b>2,604,917</b>

FIXED ASSETS	2020	2019
Building (Insured Value)	13,900,000	13,900,000
Contents (Insured Value)	925,000	925,000
Parking Lots	1,000,000	1,000,000
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>15,825,000</b>	<b>15,825,000</b>

<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>18,612,510</b>	<b>18,429,917</b>
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## LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LONG TERM LIABILITIES		
Mortgage	1,489,746	1,833,205
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,489,746</b>	<b>1,833,205</b>

EQUITY		
Bethel Equity	17,122,764	16,596,712
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>17,122,764</b>	<b>16,596,712</b>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES + TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>18,612,510</b>	<b>18,429,917</b>
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# GENERAL FUND BUDGET

	2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>			
Congregational Contributions	1,310,000	1,246,005	1,250,000
Loose Offering	30,000	12,505	12,000
Rental Fees	130,000	123,126	130,000
Paycheck Protection Loan		188,000	
Thrivent Choice Funds Transfer			20,000
Thrivent Choice Donations			8,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,470,000</b>	<b>1,569,636</b>	<b>1,420,000</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
<b>Missions</b>			
ELCA/LWR	45,720	45,315	35,000
Other Benevolences	4,800	4,800	3,600
<b>Total Missions</b>	<b>50,520</b>	<b>50,115</b>	<b>38,600</b>
<b>Teams</b>			
Adult Education	3,000	2,600	1,650
Children's Ministry	7,300	3,500	4,000
Christian Caring	625	283	350
Communication	8,335	8,381	10,000
Fellowship	1,700	-	900
Life & Growth	4,480	2,514	2,440
Social Missions	2,750	2,750	2,750
Stewardship	7,800	7,264	5,000
Worship & Music	17,950	14,251	14,000
Youth	9,300	9,300	5,000
Contingency/Miscellaneous	3,500	1,870	1,900
<b>Total Teams</b>	<b>66,740</b>	<b>52,712</b>	<b>47,990</b>

	2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET
<b>Salaries &amp; Staff Expenses</b>			
Staff Salaries & Benefits	1,007,997	978,864	1,003,172
FICA Allowance	16,842	15,882	16,218
Lay Staff Social Security	51,423	47,577	51,876
Mileage Reimbursements	9,400	4,424	9,400
Personnel Expenses	7,400	5,115	5,900
Continuing Education	8,455	2,496	6,000
<b>Total Staff Expenses</b>	<b>1,101,517</b>	<b>1,054,358</b>	<b>1,092,566</b>
<b>Office Operating Expenses</b>			
Banking/Accounting Services	7,000	7,609	7,600
Computer Equipment & Expenses	16,000	33,158	12,000
Copy Machine	3,500	4,035	3,500
Office Supplies	7,500	4,318	5,200
Postage	5,000	5,499	5,000
<b>Total Office Operating Expenses</b>	<b>39,000</b>	<b>54,619</b>	<b>33,300</b>
<b>Building Operating Expenses</b>			
Electricity & Water	53,000	47,071	53,000
Natural Gas	18,000	12,958	18,000
Telephone Expense	2,750	2,880	3,120
Waste Removal	10,000	11,673	13,000
Building Maintenance	9,000	12,281	8,500
Building Supplies	6,000	2,271	5,500
Custodial Supplies	6,000	4,020	5,500
Groundskeeping	15,000	14,188	15,000
Mortgage Supplement	65,000	59,205	57,000
<b>Total Building Operating Expenses</b>	<b>184,750</b>	<b>166,548</b>	<b>178,620</b>

	2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET
<b>Insurance</b>			
Church Umbrella Insurance	17,473	19,944	18,924
Worker's Comp	10,000	9,634	10,000
<b>Total Insurance</b>	<b>27,473</b>	<b>29,578</b>	<b>28,924</b>
<b>Year End Surplus</b>		<b>161,707</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,470,000</b>	<b>1,569,637</b>	<b>1,420,000</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## 2020 SPECIAL ACCOUNTS

Special Accounts	Begin	Receipts	Disburse	Balance
Adult Education	1,209.17	165.00	300.00	1,074.17
Beautification Fund	1,158.44	13,610.00	12,791.42	1,977.02
Building Expenses	919.47	2,852.00	2,840.52	930.95
Camp Scholarships	4,618.44	1,090.00	0.00	5,708.44
Capital Improvements	18,567.15	0.00	4,500.00	14,067.15
Christian Caring	1,635.11	335.00	254.41	1,715.70
Continuing Ed	2,409.51	0.00	731.69	1,677.82
Equipment Repair	1,206.25	1,000.00	0.00	2,206.25
Equity Fund	287,476.00	4,000.00	21,259.00	270,217.00
Fellowship	1,278.47	0.00	642.38	636.09
FPU Scholarships	1,346.00	0.00	0.00	1,346.00
Interest	15,267.50	4,131.92	15,267.50	4,131.92
Kitchen Equipment	108.49	0.00	100.00	8.49
Library	3,283.89	744.17	2,020.30	2,007.76
Life and Growth	5,162.22	852.85	273.00	5,742.07
Men's Ministry	7,141.75	1,140.00	4,928.79	3,352.96
Neighborhood Outreach	6,040.26	2,103.00	5,259.06	2,884.20
Office Equipment	8,255.95	1,050.00	745.45	8,560.50
Organ	34,876.89	900.00	0.00	35,776.89
Parish Nurse	5,155.34	635.00	1,046.85	4,743.49
Plants	1,829.63	1,120.00	640.00	2,309.63
Prepaid Pledges	159,566.41	47,610.00	57,210.00	149,966.41
Thrivent Choice	21,408.72	8,977.00	5,618.65	24,767.07
Worship	932.40	7,277.09	2,874.90	5,334.59
Youth	3,350.61	8,637.00	277.99	11,709.62
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL PURPOSE</b>	<b>594,204.07</b>	<b>108,230.03</b>	<b>139,581.91</b>	<b>562,852.19</b>

Pass Through	Begin	Receipts	Disburse	Balance
150th Anniversary	1,352.39	1,035.00	725.34	1,662.05
Puerto Rico	1,671.72	0.00	0.00	1,671.72
Food for Kidz	1,831.06	6,453.00	7,784.06	500.00
Misc Pass Through		26,450.62	12,865.94	13,584.68
Mission Work Trips	961.15	2,000.00	111.77	2,849.38
Seasonal Offerings	0.00	26,099.06	26,099.06	0.00
Social Missions	5,013.12	4,415.00	1,200.00	8,228.12
Special Missions Offering	11,572.89	52,224.90	62,110.86	1,686.93
<b>TOTAL PASS-THROUGH</b>	<b>22,402.33</b>	<b>118,677.58</b>	<b>110,897.03</b>	<b>30,182.88</b>

<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>616,606.40</b>	<b>226,907.61</b>	<b>250,478.94</b>	<b>593,035.07</b>
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2020 Special Account Assets	Begin	Receipts	Disburse	Balance
Home Federal CDs	26,767.02	248.61	0.00	27,015.63
Home Federal Investment Funds	81,566.45	2,061.36	677.75	82,950.06
Home Federal Savings	25,840.65	12.96	0.00	25,853.61
Mission Investment Fund	69,687.06	799.40	0.00	70,486.46
Wells Fargo Checking	26,875.07	221,268.10	239,559.75	18,310.45
Wells Fargo Investment Funds	230,128.61	2,481.14	641.44	231,968.31
Wells Fargo Savings	146,014.51	36.04	9,600.00	136,450.55
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>616,606.40</b>	<b>226,907.61</b>	<b>250,478.94</b>	<b>593,035.07</b>



## BUILDING / MORTGAGE FUND



	Payments	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Mortgage Balance
Beginning				1,833,205
Q1 2020	111,750	16,665	95,085	1,738,120
Q2 2020	16,078	16,078	0	1,738,120
Q3 2020	167,461	15,459	152,002	1,586,119
Q4 2020	110,751	14,378	96,373	1,489,746
<b>Total For Year</b>	<b>406,040</b>	<b>62,580</b>	<b>343,460</b>	

\*Current payoff date is October 2024

# BETHEL WOMEN: TREASURER'S REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

## CHECKING ACCOUNT

<b>Balance per books on December 31, 2019</b>	<b>\$1,454.33</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Cards	\$792.05
Funeral donations	\$475.00
Sunday morning coffee	\$473.96
General offering	\$440.85
Mission of the month	\$2,626.50
Thankoffering	\$41.00
Miscellaneous	\$500.50
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$5,349.86</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	
SE MN Women of the ELCA - Zumbro River Conference offering	\$300.00
SE MN Women of the ELCA - SWO offering	\$10.00
SE MN Women of the ELCA - general offerng	\$430.25
SE MN Women of the ELCA - River Channels subscription	\$5.00
Bethel Lutheran Church - Tanzania	\$200.00
Bethel Lutheran Church - Bethel families in need	\$500.00
Bethel Lutheran Church - MN Foodshare	\$500.00
Channel One	\$160.00
Dorothy Day House	\$129.88
Gift of Life Transplant House	\$194.20
Hope Lodge	\$240.53
LWR Baby care kits	\$134.06
LWR Personal Care Kits	\$196.80
LWR Shipping quilts & kits	\$100.00
MN Adult & Teen Challenge	\$676.72
Running Start for Schools	\$158.50
Women's Shelter	\$493.47
Ashley's Hallmark - Willow Tree angel	\$23.79
Hy-Vee - Plant	\$32.44
Molly Maid of Rochester - Kitchen cleaning	\$99.00
Teigen Supply = Kitchen supplies	\$150.48
Symth Companies - 150 copies of yearbook	\$145.15
Sue Thalacker - Greeting cards	\$242.14
Treasures Abounding - Greeting cards	\$52.60
VJ Anderson - postage for stamps to Germany	\$25.99
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,201.00</b>

Balance per books on December 31, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,603.19

**SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

BALANCE ON HAND - December 31, 2019 \_\_\_\_\_ \$8,026.66

Interest - March 31, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.98

BALANCE ON HAND - March 31, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ \$8,032.64

Interest - July 31, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ \$4.36

BALANCE ON HAND - July 31, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ \$8,037.00

Interest - September 30, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ \$2.70

BALANCE ON HAND - September 30, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ \$8,039.70

Interest - December 31, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ \$2.02

BALANCE ON HAND - December 31, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ \$8,041.72

**Teresa Hughes**  
**Treasurer, Bethel Women**

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: TREASURER'S REPORT

Sharon Deutschle, Treasurer

## ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

<b>Balance on hand, January 1, 2020</b>	<b>\$8,721.82</b>
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### RECEIPTS

Sunday School Registration	\$273.40
Sunday School Offering	\$3,078.96
VBS Offerings/Registration	\$796.31
Lenten Meal	\$380.00
Miscellaneous	\$28.00
Church Budget	\$3,500.00
Donations / Memorials	\$20.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$8,076.67</b>

## DISBURSEMENTS

### Sunday School

Curriculum	\$528.00
Supplies	\$2,180.52
Baptism Books	\$639.63
Teacher Appreciation/Workshops	\$523.14
Bibles	\$693.89
Miscellaneous	\$360.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,925.42</b>

### Vacation Bible School

Curriculum and Supplies	\$2,616.39
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<b>Good Earth Village</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
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### Missions

Family Mission Day	\$162.00
Channel One	\$250.00
Baskets for Cancer Patients	\$494.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$906.00</b>

### Special Costs

Holiday Events	\$1,370.27
Age-Level Events	\$544.03
Fellowship	\$807.61
Worship Kits/Drive-In	\$450.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,172.88</b>

<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$11,870.69</b>
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<b>Balance on Hand, December 31, 2020</b>	<b>\$4,927.80</b>
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# PARISH NURSE / HEALTH CABINET 2020 REPORT

## THE YEAR OF A WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC

As with everything at Bethel and our city, our state, our country, the world, COVID-19 affected the work of the Parish Nurse and the Health Cabinet in 2020. The work of the Parish Nurse did not stop—just changed. The theme adopted by the Health Cabinet for 2020 was “Living Fully”—very ironic for this year of lockdowns and necessary limitations on how we live our lives.

### COVID-19 Preparation and Planning

Much of my time was spent on COVID-19 this year. As the Parish Nurse, I was a member of Bethel's Re-engagement Task Force and provided input on safely coming back together for in-person worship and activities. Decisions made by the group put the health and safety of Bethel members as the priority while still allowing opportunities for worship and other activities at Bethel. This involved keeping informed of everything related to COVID-19 on a local, SE Minnesota Synod of the ELCA, as well as state and national level. I was able to develop connections with the Olmsted County Health Department and Mayo Clinic to help guide Bethel's discussions and decision-making.

### Blood Pressure Screening

The last blood pressure check performed at Bethel was on March 1, 2020. I am hopeful that I will be resuming blood pressure checks in 2021.

### Parish Nurse Visits

My last in-person visits with Bethel members occurred in late February 2020. Beginning in April 2020 visits were held by phone for those individuals for whom it was appropriate.

### Grief Discussion/Support Group

We held two in-person Grief Discussion/Support Groups this year in March and November. A Zoom group will be held in January 2021.

### Parish Nurse monthly articles/blog

I was able to publish several monthly articles on various topics related to COVID-19 this year. Topics included finding peace in a time of uncertainty, hope, pandemic fatigue, grocery shopping and exercise, giving thanks, and safety practices related to COVID. This was not the plan as the year began. The theme for this year's articles was to be taking care of your whole self.

### Yearly Bethel Health-related activities

Bethel Bikers—cancelled for 2020

Bethel Flu shots—cancelled for 2020

Health Fair—cancelled for 2020

Bethel Blood Donations—held as usual in July with significantly decreased numbers

I continued to meet virtually with Parish Nurse/Faith Community Nurse colleagues throughout SE Minnesota. It was very helpful to hear what others were doing during this time and to provide support to one another.

Yes, it was a confusing and stressful year for all of us. But there is hope with the approval of a vaccine for COVID-19. There is nothing I look forward to more than having a 2021 that is “normal”, at least at some point.

Submitted by Kathy Ferguson, RN, Parish Nurse

## MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR REPORT

As I reflect on 2020, there has been many changes throughout the year and one thing still stays the same: God's love for us all. As Bethel's Member Coordinator, I have been busy this year engaging our members through various outreach programs such as Care Callers and Special Mailings (specifically meant for those individuals who have limited technology access at this time) despite the global pandemic of COVID-19. In May 2020, I joined the Reengagement Task Force to help provide insight about welcoming people to Bethel, bringing up innovated ideas to help our church community stay engaged along with being present to provide insight for the voice of our congregation. I am thankful for the countless hours the Reengagement Task Force has put into the idea and turning those ideas into reality to ensure our congregation is able to gather safely despite COVID-19 restrictions.

Our church community continued to welcome new members throughout 2020. Due to the global pandemic, we hosted Zoom meetings even for our New Member Orientation 101 class. Despite the changes to virtual classes, the agenda was similar to prior years allowing us to enjoy time to get to know the new members along with their families. The next steps of the membership process includes a time of "Getting to Know You", a Bethel Tour and the New Member Reception Weekend. The "Getting to Know You" time is typically in person while a tour of Bethel was converted to usage through technology such as over the phone and on Zoom. The New Member Reception Weekend was held by welcoming the new members during the service, however, the new members were not able to walk to the front of the sanctuary and be recognized due to social distancing requirements. We are grateful for everyone's understanding and flexibility throughout this challenging year of COVID-19.

Regardless of a global pandemic, we continue to focus on our mission statement of "...prepare our members for outreach and service, and to minister to human needs". Everyone is always welcome to join a small group and help with the myriad of volunteer opportunities through Bethel. Even though some volunteering and small group opportunities look different transitioning from in-person to virtual, we continue to move forward together to best support our church, local, and global community to glorify Christ. Please feel free to reach out to our church office at any time if you have ideas and are looking to get connected with small groups, volunteering, etc.

Thank you for your continued support, no matter how you use your talents and gifts, in 2021!

Sheri Kallembach, Member Coordinator

# CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY (CYF) MINISTRY REPORT

In the ministry for Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) at Bethel, 2020 started off with near happy oblivion of what was to come, virus-wise. Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth Group continued with a beautiful regularity, aiming toward the goal of rooting all of our youth and families in God's Word in Christ. January found middle and high schoolers taking a bus for a ski trip to Afton Alps.

As the season of lent and March approached, we began to wonder how the Coronavirus may impact our gatherings. By the end of March, plans for youth events were postponed and weekly gatherings like Confirmation and Sunday School were suspended. Much work and creativity was found in order to continue to offer opportunities to gather "virtually." A special video edition of the Prayer Walk Stations was produced for Holy Week by our families.

As spring approached summer, CYF staff continued to be flexible in finding new ways to do ministry together with our youth and families. Zoom, facebook live, and youtube were utilized in order to continue Confirmation large group teaching and small group time for our 7th and 8th graders. Similar efforts were made to allow virtual gatherings for our Sunday Schoolers and high schoolers as well. As the virus continued down its path, plans for VBS were changed from in-person to a series of well-produced videos featuring our CYF staff, and filmed and edited by Jon and Kari Tollefson. In-person Confirmation Camp at Good Earth Village was cancelled and Bethel produced Confirmation Camp videos and utilized some video programming from Good Earth Village. The High School Mission Trip was also cancelled, though virtual gatherings continued to be offered as questions and conversations swirled about what fall programming would look like.

As fall neared, the Bethel CYF staff was determined to try to offer a hybrid of in-person and video programming for Sunday School and Confirmation, mirroring the precautions set out by the Rochester School District. Limited family style Sunday School was developed and offered both in person and in video format from Bethel Hall every Sunday. A rally day drive through kicked off this much altered way of doing Sunday School. Limited in-person Confirmation was also developed for a rotating group of small groups while the rest of our small groups tuned in to the live presentation on zoom.

During this time, it was announced that in the wake of the upcoming pastoral transition from Pastor Wahl's retirement and Pastor Anjanette's being called to the Lead Pastor position, that Pastor Jason's job description would be changing as well and that a new Generational Pastor would be called in the next year to help lead the CYF ministry area. Also during this time our Director of High School Youth Ministry, Tyler Shonrock, was joyfully married and announced that he would be taking a ministry position near Madison, WI early in the fall. This caused an opening in our staff, and necessitated the formation of a search team and the beginning of the search process to find and interview able candidates to lead this area of the ministry at Bethel.

As fall continued and COVID numbers in Olmsted County rose, the hybrid ministries were changed to online only, as worship services saw the same evolution, which would last through the year 2020. CYF staff continued to flex its creative muscles, putting together and handing out via a drive through, Advent At Home kits for all in the congregation who wanted them. In lieu of an in person Sunday School Christmas Program, ideas began to fly about developing a live drive-through Nativity in the Bethel parking lot. Families jumped in, along with a virtual petting zoo of live animals, and the event brought many out of the woodwork in order to both tell and hear the beautiful Christmas story of Jesus' birth.

It was a fitting end to a year that was marked by the necessity for flexibility and creativity in order to continue proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, and finding ways for our families to nurture and be nurtured in the Word made flesh. Thanks to our families, youth, and volunteers, who continue to jump right into the fray to tell this story. And thanks for a great CYF staff who have worked together admirably this year to offer new ways of doing youth ministry as necessitated by the extraordinary year we've all had. Praise be to the Holy Spirit, who can't be held back by the impediments we worry so much about!

**Pastor Jason Burggraff**



## WORSHIP & MUSIC REPORT

Bethel Lutheran Church is blessed to have a strong and sustaining music program. 2020 was a testament to this as an unprecedented pandemic switched our rehearsals, meetings and special musical offerings to an online setting. I have been forced to dust off my small knowledge of video editing and digital recording, and our dedicated, talented and loving members have adjusted to recording their solo voice so that our programs can still offer the gift of the Word of God through song.

The year started off with a new liturgical setting for Lent called Joyous Light. Yet, after just a few services, states mandated that a pandemic had arrived in the US and people were to stay home and refrain from congregating in large groups. This in turn created an empty sanctuary for Pastor Norm Wahl's last Easter with us before his retirement. All musicians pulled together and we were able to present our first virtual brass selection and virtual choir selection, along with the help of Merle Savage on trumpet for our newly formed online services.

Throughout the rest of the season up through May and then again in the fall we resumed online rehearsals for Chancel Choir, Blessings, Sing For Joy, Choristers & Jubilate. Unfortunately the kids choirs were hard to manage and difficult to keep attention with students being online with school all day. The Jubilate, Choristers and Cherubs will resume again once we are allowed to gather again in person. At the beginning of the fall, we were able to have Orffestra (mallets) and Bethel Ringers (handbells) since these instruments didn't require wind to play and the instrumentalists could be spaced apart. This ended in November due to new state and local orders prohibiting larger gatherings.

A suggestion made by Pastor Anjanette to create a safe makeshift recording studio in the music room that would allow any/all congregants to record their parts for our virtual special music. This has been used MANY times and has become an invaluable resource during this time of social distancing.

In October, we bid farewell to an amazing, talented and devoted brother in Christ... Pastor Norman Wahl. His farewell and retirement celebration was memorable, meaningful and heartfelt as he begins a new chapter in his life. Merle Savage, Kari Solak, Jim Bahler, Marcia Odenbach and Gary Thorn were all present along with the members of Sing For Joy (an ensemble began by Norm) to help add music to the festivities. I was able to arrange an orchestral version of "Beautiful Savior" and created a virtual orchestra with members of Bethel and the Rochester Pops to aid in celebrating one of Pastor Wahl's favorite hymns. The choir also presented a virtual offering of "With a Voice of Singing." The staff were also able to present Pastor Norm with a special rendition headed by Pastor Bandel.

Bethel's next chapter began with our new lead Pastor ... Anjanette Bandel, and we are all very excited to begin this new journey with her. Earlier in the summer we sought out ways to bring people back to the church in a safe way that they could worship with each other and receive communion while maintaining a safe distance, thus we created the drive-in worship services which are still going strong. This brings us to Christmas Eve where we celebrated a 3 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and a 10:00 p.m. services with special ice decorations and projections to enhance the outdoor service. Pastor Anjanette organized a special DVD which incorporated MANY people within the church providing prayers, readings and musical offerings. Among these music offerings were: Caroline Worra, Bill Shea, Gary Thorn, Kathi Kaehler, Kim Schmidt, Allison Ackmann & the chancel choir.

In Christ, **Brock A. Besse** | Minister of Music & Worship

# YOUNG IN SPIRIT TREASURER'S REPORT

Carol Lamberg, Treasurer

<b>Beginning Balance, January 1, 2020</b>	<b>\$2,891.12</b>
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## Income

Meals sold	\$1,330.00
Memorials Received	\$200.00
Budget Amount	\$200.00
Interest on Account	\$0.31
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,730.31</b>

## Disbursements

Gleason Catering	\$1,380.77
Reimburse for Gift	\$50.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$1,430.77</b>

<b>Balance in Checking Account, December 31, 2020</b>	<b>\$3,190.66</b>
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## THRIVENT CHOICE REPORT

Bethel is privileged and thrilled that many members with Thrivent contracts designate fraternal dollars to Bethel throughout the year. This enables Bethel to support projects not covered by general fund dollars. In 2020 Thrivent Choice were spent in this way:

- \$500 to subsidize the youth for serving the Annual Dinner meal
- \$5,000 to be given to benevolences as chosen by members at the Annual Meeting
- \$750 to purchase Lenten meal supplies
- \$90 to assist in updating the batteries and electrodes for our AED's
- \$100 to purchase gift cards to encourage members to sign up for Bethel Connect
- \$96.22 to purchase a remote car starter for use when needed at our bi-weekly Drive-In Worship services with Holy Communion

Many, many thanks for remembering Bethel in this way.

# ANNUAL MEETING NOMINATIONS

## OPEN COUNCIL POSITIONS:

### PRESIDENT (2 yr term, 2023)

- Greg Heetland

### RESOURCE BOARD (3 yr term, 2024)

- Mitch Anderson

### TREASURER (2 yr term—2023)

- Eric Lundquist

## OPEN POSITIONS FOR ELECTED TEAMS:

### NOMINATING TEAM (2 yr term, 2023)

- Ron Jensen
- Art Larson

### PERSONNEL TEAM (3 yr term, 2024)

- Kathy Brandt
- Karen Hartman

### PERSONNEL TEAM (1 yr term, 2022)

- Nicole Iverson

### ENDOWMENT TEAM (3 yr term—2024)

- Dave Turner
- Russ Wiesner

## COLUMBARIUM BOARD (3 yr term, 2024)

- Paul Velsor
- Rick Rathbun

## SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS (1 day virtual event - May 8, 2021)

### Female

- Vanessa Rosolak
- Kathy Tri
- Kim Gross
- Jodi Dettman

### Male

- Mike Rosolak
- Greg Hagen
- Jim Gross
- Paul Wittmer

### Youth

- Ethan Ledebuhr
- Sophie Sanchez

### Alternates

- Jeff Setterlund
- Bev Setterlund
- Russ Shores
- Marlys Shores

SAMPLE



# BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH



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