

# Annual Report of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

Ministry Reports 2021

Christine Swetland

# OUR MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

## Our Mission

To proclaim the message of salvation in Jesus Christ through joyful worship, quality education, and loving service.

## Our Vision

To unite the congregation and community through a deeper awareness of Christ in all His fullness and enabling power.

## Our Values

- Faith: Living in an intentional, personal, and growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Fellowship: Loving and caring for each other as brothers and sisters in Christ while celebrating our mutual companionship and rich diversity blessed by the grace of the Holy Spirit.
- Outreach: Reaching outside of ourselves to invite and welcome others into a relationship with Christ.

# SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.” Psalm 126:5*

February 22, 2022

Dear Shepherd of the Hills Community,

Congregational Annual meetings are times for reflection, evaluation, and looking forward. So too, this Annual Report for the momentous year just concluded, 2021, is a record and reminder of the work that God is doing in and through us all.

As a community you have said Goodbye to beloved Pastor Bob Willse, welcomed Interim Pastor Scot Sorensen, formed a gifted Call Committee...all the while managing the ever-changing circumstances of the pandemic with worship online, worship in-person and on-line, no communion distribution, communion distribution, and then again, no communion distribution.

This Annual Report is a testament to the faithful work being done in every corner of this congregation from weekly worship, to serving the community in a number of avenues, to the fantastic work done daily at our Preschool, to keeping the buildings and grounds in shape, to small groups providing care and support, to young people growing in faith.

To all of this, I say, well done good and faithful servants. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel as together we go through this time of transition.

Joyfully,

Pastor Scot

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

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**SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA  
FEBRUARY 27, 2022 – 10:45 A.M.**

- ◆ **CALL To ORDER** – John Erickson, President
- ◆ **ESTABLISH QUORUM** (10% of our Voting Members)
- ◆ **OPENING PRAYER**
- ◆ **APPROVE AGENDA**
- ◆ **APPROVE MINUTES – NOVEMBER 21, 2021, CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**
- ◆ **REPORTS FROM STAFF**
- ◆ **REPORTS FROM MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS**
- ◆ **REPORTS FROM OUR SMALL GROUPS**
- ◆ **MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**
  - **NOMINATION TEAM**  
Two Outgoing Steering Team Members and four members from the congregation
  - **SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES**  
One male and one female. Our Synod Assembly will be held in Reno, NV Friday-Sunday, June 3-5.
- ◆ **RECOGNITIONS & THANK-YOUS**
- ◆ **ADJOURNMENT WITH PRAYER**

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## **Congregational Meeting Minutes November 21, 2021**

The Meeting was called to order by Mutual Ministry Chair Jeanne Meyers at 11:45

A Quorum of 32 voting members was present.

Pastor Scot led a prayer and reminded us that “Our faith will get us to the future”.

Sue Gibbs made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2021, meeting, and Brian Swetland seconded. Motion passed.

Election of Officers and Steering Team was the next item on the agenda. A report was made from the Nominating team. Those Nominated were:

President-Jon Erickson

Secretary/Mutual Ministry-Jeanne Meyers

Treasurer-Judy Horan

Education-Laura Barton

Stewardship-Glenn Wylie

Mission-No volunteers

Nominations were asked for from the floor. None were offered. Members voted by acclamation. Rob Williamson made a motion to approve the vote and Lila Carney seconded.

Judy Horan and Pastor Scot presented the budget for 2022 to the members. Some discussion followed. Pat Alvestad made a motion to accept the budget and Joan Chevalier second.

Recognition of Staff and Volunteers.

Jeanne Meyers recognized Rob Williamson as our Youth Director for five years and presented him with a gift. Also recognized was Joan Jackson for her years of acting as a sign language interpreter for our church. Marilyn Weaver, Bill Smith, and Tiffany Lanting, outgoing Steering members, were thanked as well. Pastor Scot stated his appreciation for the staff at Shepherd, Chris Homes, Cathy Webb, Christine Swetland, and Rob Williamson. Sue Gibbs was recognized, and added her thanks, as did the rest

of the members, for the leadership of Pastor Scot during this transition time at our church.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:10

# STAFF REPORTS

## PASTOR

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*“So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the ministry of reconciliation to us. So, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” (II Corinthians 5:17-20)*

Every year is marked with its own set of changes and challenges. If we remember that truth, then as we reflect on 2021, it was like other years, full of change and challenges. And, like other years, there were times of both sadness and celebrations, disappointments and triumphs.

In June, Shepherd of the Hills said Godspeed to beloved Pastor Bob Willse. His 16+ years of ministry were celebrated and honored with a festive dinner. (Thankfully, COVID-19 pandemic numbers cooperated, and people were actually able to gather in person for the celebration.) Pastor Bob has left a wonderful legacy and positioned the congregation to move forward into God’s future which is unfolding before us.

After a year of remote/online worship, the congregation was able to begin gathering together for worship at Easter. But there are still high COVID-19 caseloads in the county, caution is still the byword, and in-person worship still required masking and social distancing. The worship team and Facebook team have done an amazing job leading worship for both those gathered inside the sanctuary and those gathered remotely. This hybrid model of worship experienced both in-person and online is here to stay. Many thanks to those who insure we are online each week.

I arrived in mid-July to begin my service as your intentional Interim Pastor. I could not have experienced a more welcoming community along with a dedicated and gifted staff. Thank you, as St. Paul writes to the Philippians, for your partnership in the gospel.

My role as the intentional Interim Pastor is to help Shepherd of the Hills navigate this time of transition. To that end, I have worked closely with the Steering Team and they were able to select the Call Committee in September. Your Call Committee members are Laura Barton, Barbara Blue, Sue Gibbs, JD Hoskins, Deb Moehrke, and Brian Swetland. I can report that they are hard at work completing the Ministry Site Profile, listening to the Holy Spirit and the congregation, and discerning the type of leader God is preparing for this congregation.

In this year of change and challenges, one of those has been around worship and Holy



Communion. During the year there has been 1) only virtual/online worship, 2) outdoor parking lot worship, 3) hybrid in-person/online simulcast worship with bring-your-own communion, 4) hybrid in-person/online simulcast worship with communion distribution from the altar, and 5) back to bring-your-own or “Eucharistables” (individually sealed communion elements) communion during hybrid in-person/online worship. We are all learning to get comfortable with change.

I would be remiss if I did not extend my deep thanks and appreciation to the lay leadership here at Shepherd of the Hills. The Steering Team is faithfully fulfilling their duties to ensure the operation of all aspects of the life of this congregation. From finances and fellowship to Epiphany meals and maintenance, the Steering Team and the many congregational members serving on those ministry teams continue to expand the witness of this congregation.

I also want to extend my gratitude to the staff - Chris Holmes, Christine Swetland, Kathy Webb, and Rob Williamson. Each of these talented individuals brings unique gifts to their position. Their dedication, professional manner, and caring compassion for this community make it a privilege to be part of this team.

Finally, as I look forward to the year before us, I know it too will be filled with challenge and change, disappointments and triumphs, sadness and celebrations. But, I also know that our loving Savior will accompany us every step of the way. My prayer is that the Call Committee will continue their great work completing the Ministry Site Profile and then interviewing candidates to fill the pastoral position here at Shepherd of the Hills. And then, with the timing of the Holy Spirit, the congregation will have a special congregational meeting to call its next pastor. Together we will continue to pray for discerning guidance from the Holy Spirit in this process of preparation and discovery.

It is an honor to serve as your Interim Pastor.

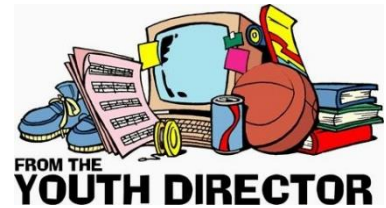
Joyfully,

**Rev. Scot Sorensen**  
**Intentional Interim Pastor**

## YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

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What a year we had! It was a year full of unexpected changes and adaptations, but we managed to pull through and keep going. Our programs have come out the other side looking different, but this gives us the opportunity to examine what we have done and where we want to go.



As in the past, the goal of the youth department for the past year was to enrich the spiritual understanding of middle and high school youth at Shepherd of the Hills by expanding on the Bible's stories and lessons learned as children and helping take those lessons out into the world. This includes discussions of theology and philosophy, confirmation class for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students, and fellowship time in both Senior High Youth Group (SHY) and God's All-Stars (GAS) meetings. In these groups, we strive to create a safe space for discussion and enjoyment of like-minded company, allowing youth to reenergize from a world that is too often dismissive of them and their faith. As with most meetings last year, 2021 began with all youth programs taking place on Zoom. Confirmation met at its usual time, 12-2 pm on Sundays, while SHY met during the afternoon for the first part of the year. Once it was decided that in-person meetings could continue again safely so long as precautions were carried out, SHY began to gather in the sanctuary, staying masked and distancing across the large space, and moved back to their previous time, 6-8:30 pm. The pandemic conditions made attendance erratic throughout the year. The confirmands decided that Zoom was the best way to continue having class, so confirmation lessons continued on that platform. While in-person meetings were allowed, GAS met at the end of each month with exceptions for holidays.

In February, SHY made Valentine's Day cards for older members of the congregation based on a list provided by the Congregational Life team. Materials were dropped off Tuesday with each high school member and were picked up Friday before being delivered by me on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup>.

In May, Lang Wollstadt completed his confirmation studies and affirmed his baptism in front of the congregation. Confirmation class began again in September with two new students, Eamon Hoskins, and Keira Lanting, although scheduling conflicts and extracurricular activities prevented class from taking place. As a result, the class moved to Thursday afternoons and is held over Zoom.

In December, GAS and SHY held their annual Christmas celebrations. GAS met for three hours of games, food, and fellowship. SHY resumed their tradition of an annual Christmas potluck, playing games, and participating in a White Elephant gift exchange. The beginning of 2022 brings changes, both good and bad. With the surge in cases of the Omicron COVID-19 variant, youth programs have gone back to Zoom, although that will revert to in-person meetings once cases drop enough. Confirmation will continue over Zoom on Thursdays, as that works better for the confirmands. GAS has been put on hold for the moment but will resume at the first opportunity, and with confirmation

moving to Thursdays, GAS will be able to increase its meetings to twice a month to start.

My job has expanded with approval from the Steering Team and will now encompass all youth and family ministries. I look forward to working with the Education Team to bridge the previously unconnected ministries. Laura Barton and I will be holding a meeting with youth, parents, and all other concerned parties to ensure youth and family ministries are serving the needs of all here at Shepherd of the Hills.

As of the beginning of February, the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis has been canceled due to concerns about the ongoing pandemic. While this is an unfortunate turn of events, we will take the opportunity to explore other options for a summer trip. I am also currently in seminary and look forward to applying the things I learn during my studies to my job here, including Biblical exegesis, Lutheran theological concepts, and community organizing.

I look forward to this next year as we deal with the new challenges that arise. I want to thank our Interim Pastor, Scot Sorensen, for his leadership during this confusing time of change, and my other fellow staff members, Chris Holmes and Christine Swetland, for their help in my ministries.

Your brother in Christ,

**Rob Williamson**  
**Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator**

## **PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR**

As we opened for the school year of 2020-2021, we were still faced with the challenges of COVID-19. We were able to be open, 8:30-11:30, for preschool, but we did not offer our Cherubs program, due to not being able to mix age groups in the afternoon, nor were we able to have Chapel with Pastor Bob and Mr. Chris. With the modifications to our classrooms and to our staff, we were able to have a successful school year. Our class sizes were smaller, we had fewer staff members, adults and some children were wearing masks and we had our Procure App in place. The app allows us to have contactless sign-in and sign-outs and we can communicate with our parents with pictures and detailed accounts of their child's day. No adults in the building, children & staff only.



We adjusted our 1<sup>st</sup> day of school by meeting outside, each class individually, and just letting parents visit for a short time. It was nice to be able to visit with our families, even though it was different than what we would have usually done. Unfortunately, we were not able to have our open house or annual Christmas event due to not being able to

gather. We still managed to have our animal party, Thanksgiving feast, pajama party, valentine party, and Easter breakfast. All within the limitations set by COVID-19.

As June approached, things were opening up a bit, so we were able to figure out a way to combine our family picnic and our graduations. Each class had its own day and time, and we had a picnic/graduation for the pre-ks and breakfast for the 3's. It was really nice to be able to have closure to this school year being that last year we closed before we could say our goodbyes. We managed to have 2 summer school camps, a cooking camp, and a science camp. Both were full and very appreciated by parents.

It was another challenging year, but I am so blessed to be surrounded by a supported staff. With all the protocols and restrictions, we had to open with this year our parents were on board and supported us through it all. We have the best parents ever!

**Kathy Webb**  
**Preschool Director**

## **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY**

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Greetings from your director of music ministries. This year has been like no other in my 26 years here. Negotiating the pandemic while saying farewell to Pastor Bob and transitioning towards a new Pastor has created challenges for all of us at SOTH. I am grateful to still be trying to make the music a positive for our church, both traditional and more contemporary.

Our interim Pastor Scot started the 2nd half of this year, and he has been nothing but supportive of me and the staff. I believe we're lucky to have him. We have added some musical psalms to both services, along with some other suggestions from him.

With our ability to gather and worship safely changing with the positivity numbers throughout the year, we have done services with no attenders, some attenders, some parking lot gatherings, and finally in church worship. One constant is the online broadcasting of our second service.

When it seemed like the positivity numbers were going down, we got the choir together for Christmas, but that was short-lived when the numbers spiked again. With our eyes on keeping people safe during the pandemic, we have kept our focus on socially distanced smaller groups like the worship team and are implementing live drums and bass along with guitars for an improved sound for our online service.

With parts no longer available to fix our organ, we said goodbye to it, using more piano and keyboard instead. We also added a 24-channel mixer to upgrade our sound both in church and online. I am grateful to all the singers, players, and tech folks that have given so much of their time and talent to further our ministry. Big thanks also to staff members Rob Williamson and Christine Swetland for their support and excellence at what they do. They have both been a big help to me and our music ministry.

Finally, I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve here at SOTH. And I am looking forward to improving our music and bringing the choir back!

Sincerely,

**Chris Holmes**  
**Director of Musical Ministries**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



What a year 2021 was. As we began the year, we were still in the midst of the pandemic. Church was available online only through YouTube and Facebook. Pastor Bob Retired in the middle of June as he and Joan began their new chapter in life.

We were blessed to have Pastor Scot join us in July as our Interim Pastor. He will remain with us until we are able to get a settled Pastor. Our call committee is currently working on getting all the details together to

help us find a new Pastor.

It was a challenging year. We lost some good folks in our Congregation as God called them home to claim their Baptismal promise.

As we wrapped up the year, the steering team started was hard at work getting a list together of projects to accomplish in 2022. One of them being the Big Room renovation. That project is scheduled to start in February 2022.

Hopefully, as we continue in 2022, we can continue to open up and get back to the way things were before the pandemic.

Blessings,

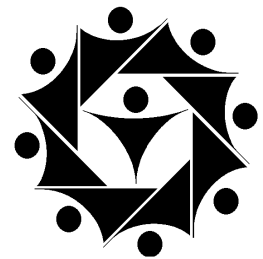
**John Erickson**  
**President**

# MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

## MUTUAL MINISTRY

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I was blessed to have an experienced team of members the help guide me through the responsibilities of the Mutual Ministry during this year of transition. A special thank you to Tom Albers, Kari Bakken, Tonilee Boldt, and Kris Golomb for their support the past year and the guidance of Pastor Bob and Pastor Scot. I look forward to working together another year, as all have agreed to continue to remain on the team to help during this time of transition.



Mutual Ministry  
Team

Since part of the role of Mutual Ministry is to provide support for staff, during the first few months of 2021, our team helped support Pastor Bob in his transition to retirement. We tried to provide a sounding board for him to express feelings or concerns about his upcoming retirement. In addition, we tried to help SOTH staff and members transition to life without Pastor Bob. To help with the ease of transition of church information, Tom Albers installed a new mesh Wi-Fi system to make it easier to move things from one computer to another.

The Mutual Ministry team also made an effort to become informed in the procedures of the Call Process and the tasks involved in the three phases. Each member received a copy of the Transition and Call Process Manual for Congregations in Transition. We tried to keep the congregation informed and included articles in The Horn. Once Pastor Scot arrived, he took over this responsibility.

Since VBS was not held in its usual fashion due to COVID-19, Mutual Ministry did not need to pursue Live Scan fingerprinting for new volunteers. A new custodian of record will need to be appointed.

In July Pastor Scot joined our team and he has provided helpful guidance as we move forward through the year of transition.

Another part of the Mutual Ministry team's responsibility is to ensure staff evaluations are completed and shared with the Executive team and CST to help in planning the budget for the following year. We adapted the process to accomplish this task during this year of transition. Pastor Scot provided input on our staff performance in addition to Pastor Bob's previous input given in May. Using this information, our team made recommendations to CST for salary increases. Reviews normally include an annual performance review of our pastor, but this was not needed this year with an interim pastor.

During our November semi-annual meeting, Mutual Ministry Team presented Rob Williamson with an employment anniversary gift for five years as our Youth Director. In



addition, an appreciation gift was given to Joan Jackson for her years volunteering as a sign language interpreter for our congregation.

Our team reviewed job descriptions and ensured that the most recent one was on file. After discussing and reviewing the Youth Director Job Description, the team decided to expand this position to Youth and Family Ministry, which will include all children's ministry. We felt this would best meet the needs of Shepherd of the Hills at this time. This was presented to CST for approval and an updated description to be approved in January.

The annual Christmas gift donation letter was sent out to members in December and, as usual, our members responded generously to the call. Our staff and other paid persons were grateful for your monetary Christmas gifts.

**Jeanne Meyers**  
**Mutual Ministry Team Leader and Congregational Secretary**

## **MISSIONS**

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The Mission Team strives to continue encouraging our church family, visitors, and viewers to demonstrate loving, caring service. We accomplish this by offering a significant portion of God's blessings given to us and each other, sharing and supporting our neighbors in need in a timely and sensitive manner, thus honoring

Christ and His example and following biblical instructions and guidelines.

In 2021 we have provided the following missions/services:

### **1. Community Meals at Epiphany Episcopal Church**

Due to social distancing and no-access rules, Mission Team volunteers served hundreds of takeaway meals which involve many tasks: shopping, cooking, set up, serving, cleaning up, and securing the church. State and Federal Food Safety Handling Guidelines are followed to ensure safe food supply and practices for those served. Hot, delicious, nutritionally balanced meals are served in a safe, efficient, courteous, encouraging manner. Often our meals are augmented with various donations such as clean, outer winter clothing, new socks, face masks, and special additional drinks and snacks.

### **2. Opportunity House**

The pandemic again in 2021 did not allow for get-together fundraisers, such as the popular TRM-4 concert or a Pumpkins on the Hill event. Instead, the Mission Team encouraged our community to donate goods and provide checks so that all could observe social gathering restrictions required by State, Federal, and local mandates. Gifts totaling \$750 were sent and other unknown donors have done what they could to help. We are praying that in 2022 we can again be allowed to gather in person and



conduct a great TRM-4 concert and fun-filled Pumpkins on the Hill event for the neighborhood children. The Mission budget in 2022 remains the same as 2021.

### **3. Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)**

In 2021 support continued with \$140/month as it did in 2020. During the pandemic, the ELCA put the Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM) program on hiatus, but it is returning in 2022. This walks alongside side experience strengths both global communities and the young adults who spend two years of their lives immersed in service. This ministry will continue to transform and enrich the lives of all they encounter, themselves included.

### **4. Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center**

We continue to support this community service organization with \$300/year. Due to limited storage space, the Center will not accept gently used items, only new baby clothes, blankets, and toiletries.

### **5. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) - World Hunger and Advent Good Gifts**

In 2019 our church responded generously, but we have been on hold again through 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic. In 2022 we hope and pray we can again provide vital training, food, medicine, backpacks, pure water, sanitary facilities, farm animals, and hope for a better more stable, healthy future.

### **6. Lutheran Social Services of N. California (LSS)**

The youth giving back (YSGB) idea has been expanded and is now called (A Novel Idea). This program provides housing and support to thousands of children and youth in Sacramento. Not only do they have a safe environment, but they are helped to safely transition beyond survival skills to self-sufficiency. Our budget continues at \$300/year into 2022 as it was in 2021. We know some individuals added further financial support.

### **7. Santa Marta**

Our church family donated \$2,343 in lieu of actual Christmas presents due to safety concerns, again the pandemic. So, the Ranch Santa Marta, aka Bethesda Teaching Ministry, requested one check. Staff could receive monies early in December 2021, allowing enough time to buy Christmas gifts for the children, youth, disabled young adults, thus ensuring a safe method to achieve a great Christmas on time. Again, we pray that in 2022 we will be able to continue our past fun tradition of physically sending Christmas presents and enjoying the photos of those receiving our gifts of love.

### **8. F.I.S.H. Food Pantry**

Checks of course are acceptable to cover the costs of buying food and Pantry's rental fees. This fine local organization is an effective outreach to low-income and homeless folks. Our mission continues to give \$300/year. You are encouraged to shop and donate food in support. Tuesday through Thursday, 9 AM through Noon, at 40 Eldridge Ave., Suite 9, Vacaville, [www.vacafish.org](http://www.vacafish.org).

## **9. Mt. Cross Ministries**

Support continues at \$300/year. We do this for this Lutheran camp so valuable experiences can continue for training, bible studies, special youth, families, men's, and women's events centered on equipping shared concerns and experiences. We pray these events will continue to be available, expanded, and improved upon for the foreseeable future. New ways to operate continuously under able inspired leadership.

## **10. Fisher House (Travis Air force Base)**

Two facilities serve active and retired military personnel and their families. These families may need a place to stay while military members are treated at David Grant Hospital. This service is provided free of charge if their residence is 50 or more miles from the base. This lessens the financial burden and provides comfortable quarters complete with a full kitchen. We provide \$300/year in 2020 and in 2021.

## **11. Lutheran World Relief (LWR)**

In 2021 Personal Care kits were not able to be collected and assembled. We pray that in 2022 we will again be able to better support LWR.

## **12. ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod**

In 2021 as in 2020 our Synod will receive \$1,000/month in support and recognition of the numerous important tasks, projects, and activities undertaken.

## **13. VUSD (Vacaville Unified School District) Food Pantry**

Donations were suspended in March 2020 since students no longer could attend school physically. We look forward to continuing our support in 2022 when possible.

## **14. Various Collections**

Mission Team still collects eyeglasses, clean outer winter clothing, toiletries to help those that need them, low income, and homeless.

## **OPERATIONS**

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### **Operations Team**

Thanks to our hardworking volunteers at SOTH in helping The Operations Team works to achieve their goal of keeping our campus, including the buildings and grounds, clean and in good repair.

Because of COVID-19, we did not have our Spring Clean Up but there were numerous volunteers that helped in keeping things picked up, trimmed up, and cleaned up throughout the spring and summer. We did have a Fall Clean-Up in September with the greatest focus on the area from the street to where the "back 40" starts and also included doing major reorganizing and "cleansing" in the atrium, Big Room, and back storage room. A big thanks to all thirteen

of you who gave up your Saturday morning to help the cause. In late summer the drainage ditch, which goes around the field and directs rainwater to a city drain was cleaned out. Again, with various volunteers, we were able to keep the pine needles in check and downspouts and drains cleaned out. Our attempt to control the drainage in the “Back 40” with a berm proved to be successful with the big rain in October.

One more section of the perimeter fence near the stub street, which was part of the “Restore the Hills project”, was removed and replaced in late April. The project was completed in about two and a half days with the help of some thirteen volunteers.

In July we had a water fitting fail on the line that provides water for the preschool buildings, preschool yards, and ED II. All water had to be shut off for about a week until a crew could be found to come in and remove a portion of the sidewalk near the preschool, repair the 3” water line, and re-pour the concrete which was achieved in a two-day period. Volunteers again stepped up to help remove and put back river rock from around where the repairs were made. Since there was no water for the automatic irrigation, the lawns and plants were irrigated with sprinklers and hand watering all by volunteers, even a neighbor who had stopped by the church office to offer help if we needed it pitched in. The watering was enough to let almost all the vegetation come back after the irrigation system was flushed and repaired.

With the office not being always staffed, a mailbox was installed so the mail person and members could leave mail and other documents without having to go inside. This was successful except we had two occasions, which I’m aware of, where people broke into it. Consequentially, a new more “secure” mailbox was installed which solved the problem. Another security measure installed was a Ring doorbell so entry doors could be locked if only one person was in the church, and they could monitor who it was wanting to come in.

The Solar Panels continue to keep producing power as designed and the new roofs on the pre-school and EDII buildings solved the constant leaking we had been experiencing with those buildings.

Keeping our property clean, inviting, and safe is a never-ending task, but one that with each other’s help, continues to be a blessing to all of us. I would like to say Thank You for your time and talents in helping the Operations Team of Shepherd of the Hills. It does not go unnoticed that things are constantly taken care of by volunteers taking a bit of their time to do jobs that they notice needing attention.

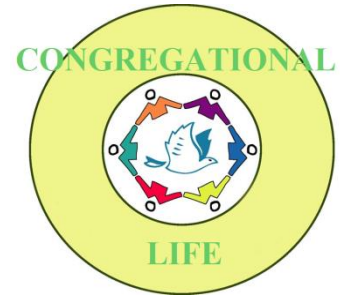
**Stan Stolte**  
**Operations Team Leader**

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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Team members for 2020 were Marge Austin, Kari Holmes, Eileen Smith, RA Stolte, and Team Leader – Pat Alvestad

The big event this past year was the retirement party for Pastor Bob and Joan. We managed to get it scheduled during a time when COVID-19 wasn't too bad, and we could have the crowd of 150 people to give them the send-off they deserved!



COVID-19, of course, impacts everything as it surges and retreats. Volunteers were found, however, for duties such as ushering, communion set-up, and clean up, even though they aren't always needed. There is still a need for a few more ushers, especially for the 8:30 service, and for communion set-up and clean-up. Extra volunteers signing up means that each will be needed less often.

Coffee and snacks are once again offered between and after services. A special thank you to everyone who answered the request to clean up.

One team member, Kari Holmes, is tech-savvy and has accepted the role of church historian/archivist. She will be having our photos scanned into an electronic format so they will be preserved forever. After she is done with the albums, they will be placed in the big room on the library shelves so that members can browse through them and see or relive part of the history of Shepherd of the Hills.

We want to thank Marilyn Weaver and Care Callers small group for their ministry of keeping us in touch with one another. A special thank you for their taking on the Meal Ministry, providing meals to members in need, and for memorial services when appropriate.

**Pat Alvestad**

**Congregation Life Team Leader**

## FINANCE TEAM

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For the period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021

The Finance Team consisted of: Judy Horan – Treasurer, Deb Moehrke – Bookkeeper, and Martha Pierce – Financial Secretary with oversight committee members Kris Golomb and Pastor Bob/Pastor Scot.

The Financial Secretary posts your donations, sends out quarterly statements, and oversees scheduling counters who also make deposits. The Bookkeeper pays the bills and serves as a backup to other team members. The Treasurer is responsible for overall record-keeping and reporting as well as bank reconciliation and keeping Steering Team members abreast of their expenditures and budget. As a committee, we meet each month to review the financial reports and assess the financial health of the church.

Each year we submit and vote on a budget for the following year. Per our budget for 2021, we expected a loss of \$26,171. That deficit includes payments for our mortgage. We include it in our budget to reflect the cash needed for all expenditures. However, our mortgage payments are not technically “expenses.” Payments on the principal portion of the loan reduce our liability or money owed on the debt. That is why we reclassify the principal payment to the balance sheet each year and our loss is reduced by the mortgage payment. In 2021 that amount was \$27,430 so our loss was reduced to \$1,433.

That looks great but our cash balance was reduced by \$37,195. Since the church does not pay taxes, I believe our cash balance is more telling than our net income on the P&L. As we are hopeful that 2022 will come out of the restrictions of the Coronavirus, we look forward to a brighter future.

Respectfully submitted,

**Judy Horan**  
**Treasurer**

## STEWARDSHIP

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The Stewardship Team members were Kevin Gibbs, Glenn Wylie, Barbara Blue, Marilyn Weaver, Pastor Bob, and Pastor Scot



### 2021 Recap

We were able to go back to in-person meetings mid-year after everyone was vaccinated. Pastor Bob retired in June and in July Pastor Scot joined us as our interim Pastor and was very involved and helpful.

We continued the Special Giving Offerings. Checks went to ELCA Disaster Relief, NCVF Almanor Wildlife relief, Solano Family and Children, Kumura Foundation, Quilters of SOTH-3, WEAVE, Ambulance for Papua New Guinea, Samaritans Purse, Case for Hope, And Vacaville Clean Streets. A total of \$1,544 remains in the Special Offerings account.

Members of the church shared their stories of Stewards of Love with Temple Talks in the month of September to prepare for the Stewardship Drive. Thanks to Kevin and Sue Gibbs, Joan Jackson, Dave Cushing, and Rayna Velasquez.

We had a "Stewardship Stew" congregational dinner after the late service to conclude the Stewardship Drive. "Estimate of Giving" cards were handed in at the services that morning. Both events were quite successful. The lunch was well attended and enjoyed. The "estimate of giving" totals over the next several Sundays were 60 cards turned in for a total of \$305,356 pledged.

In the elections in November, Glenn Wylie was elected to become the new Chair for Stewardship.

**Marilyn Weaver**  
**Stewardship Chair- 2020-2021**

## EDUCATION

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### Education Team



### Update

Our mission is to provide quality Christian education for all members of Shepherd of the Hills. Our focus is always on the following outcome: faith formation through bible-based teaching, active service, and participation in church worship life.

As we all know, this year still wasn't ideal, but we made the best of it and will continue to do so.

Education team members: Tiffani Lanting, Laura Barton, Jeanne Meyers, and Chris Curtis

Adult Education: Bob Willse / Scot Sorensen

Confirmation: Rob Williamson

### Sunday School:

Sunday School serves preschool through 5th grade. During live worship, children were dismissed from 10:30 Worship Service after the Children's Time and returned to worship for communion with their families. Tiffani Lanting, Jean Hoskins, Rebecca Locarnini, and Jeanne Meyers were the rotating Sunday School teachers.

Worship Service: It was planned that every 5th Sunday there would not be regular Sunday School. The children and youth would be invited to participate in the worship service. They would serve as readers, ushers, acolytes, communion assistants, greeters and provide special music.

Children's Time: A team of volunteers led the Children's message during the late service. All children were invited forward to participate in a lesson based on the daily gospel reading.

Respectfully submitted,

**Tiffani Lanting**  
**Education Team Leader 2020-2021**



## OUTREACH

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Outreach Team

It is my privilege to participate in the capacity of Outreach Team Leader at Shepherd of the Hills. I began my active commitment in June of 2021. Our team, comprised of Sue Gibbs, Lynette Boen, and me, have been thrilled and blessed to see our SOH community encourage and support the staff at Fairmont Charter School. Thank you all for your generous monetary donations and handwritten messages to these talented professionals. Through the entirety of the 2021-2022 school year, we are committed to praying for and honoring the staff in several ways:

- Distribution of teacher tote bags, with office supplies and age-appropriate books for the classroom. (TK-6) and cards with messages from you.
- Large class pumpkins, trick or treat bags, and personalized cards.
- Creative homemade ornaments, treats, and personalized cards.
- Personalized teacher mousepads, treats, and personalized cards.

(We have 2 more opportunities to honor the staff for their dedication and commitment to the children in our neighborhood 😊 (Spring and End-of-the-Year.) Each time that we reach out, the school principal expresses gratitude for these simple but effective ways that uplift and sustain his staff.) Kudos to all of you 😊!

Worship Name Tags: “Oh, that’s YOU behind the mask!” LOL!! Outreach supplies the name tags every Sunday.

The devotional booklets paid for through the outreach budget, have been a mainstay for many of our families at SOH. We are excited to offer the booklets again this year and we have a new resource for these devotionals! In April, we will replace “Portals of Prayer” with ELCA’s “Christ in Our Home”.

Thank you all for your continued support, prayers, and generosity as we reach out to the communities around us!

**Chris Curtis**  
**Outreach Team Lead**



# FINANCIAL REPORTS

## Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

### Balance Sheet

	Dec 31, 2021	Dec 31, 2020
<b>Assets</b>		
Checking – WA	-	10,602
Savings – WA	-	72,706
Checking – TCU	31,618	72,204
Deposit in Transit	13,449	(195)
Savings -TCU	72,778	105
Mission Plus Investment	66,445	66,063
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>184,290</b>	<b>221,485</b>
Fixed Assets	892,843	892,843
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,077,133</b>	<b>1,114,328</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	1,677	-
Mortgages	223,410	250,839
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>225,086</b>	<b>250,839</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Restricted Funds	81,394	91,403
Equity	770,653	772,086
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>852,047</b>	<b>863,489</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>1,077,133</b>	<b>1,114,328</b>

### Restricted Funds at 12/31/21

Restore the Hills	11,556.61
Pastor's Discretionary	500.00
Mission Projects	1,583.42
Memorial Fund	20,523.46
Outreach	183.42
Projector Fund	7,538.50
Sound System	4,006.57
Staff Christmas Gifts	350.00
Bequest	7,138.41
Vacation Bible School	7,893.19
Youth Programs (SHY)	9,461.30
Landscape	1,303.80
Special Service Reserve	2,189.33
Operations Contingencies	2,410.00
Virtual Worship System	4,755.92
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	<b>81,393.93</b>

**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church**  
**Budget vs. Actual Profit and Loss**

	Actual	Budget	Over/Under Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Envelope Income	307,924	336,000	(28,076)
Loose	5,794	6,000	(206)
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<b>Total offering income</b>	<b>313,718</b>	<b>342,000</b>	<b>(28,282)</b>
Other income			
Special Services	3,625	-	3,625
Facility Use	-	-	-
Flowers	2,165	2,500	(335)
Miscellaneous	664	-	664
Interest	425	780	(355)
Preschool Income	6,369	6,840	(471)
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>13,248</b>	<b>10,120</b>	<b>3,128</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Parish Income</b>	<b>326,965</b>	<b>352,120</b>	<b>(25,155)</b>
Ministry Team Income			
Congregational Life	6,313	-	6,313
Education	1,521 *	4,600	(3,079)
Finance	-	-	-
Operations	600	-	600
Outreach	1,400	-	1,400
Youth	2,500	-	2,500
Stewardship	(1,905) *	-	(1,905)
Mission	5,646 *	10,600	(4,954)
<b>Total Ministry Team Income</b>	<b>16,074</b>	<b>15,200</b>	<b>874</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>342,039</b>	<b>367,320</b>	<b>(24,281)</b>

\* Funds transferred to restricted funds on Balance Sheet

**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church**  
**Budget vs. Actual Profit and Loss**

	Actual	Budget	Over/Under Budget
<b>Expenses</b>			
Mission	21,396	24,880	(3,484)
Congregational Life	7,806	2,520	5,286
Stewardship	1,940	2,050	(110)
Youth	3,000	1,100	1,900
Education	2,687	6,966	(4,279)
Outreach	2,271	1,150	1,121
Mutual Ministry	257	2,050	(1,793)
Maintenance & Repairs	8,811	16,000	(7,189)
Administration	19,569	25,200	(5,631)
Utilities	15,609	15,540	69
Insurance	9,350	13,000	(3,650)
Loans & Financing	8,342	35,772	(27,430)
Taxes	791	930	(139)
Bank Fees	318	360	(43)
Sabbatical Expense	-	-	-
Misc. Expense	-	-	-
Compensation			
Pastor (Salary)	86,043	85,800	243
Staff Salary	126,529	124,758	1,771
Benefits	18,185	18,500	(366)
Substitutes	1,88	900	988
Employer Taxes	9,679	15,965	(6,286)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>344,472</b>	<b>393,491</b>	<b>(49,019)</b>
 <b>Net Income</b>	 <b>(1,433)</b>	 <b>(26,171)</b>	 <b>24,738</b>

\*\* Finance charges only. Principal payments reclassified to Balance Sheet to reduce liability \$27,430