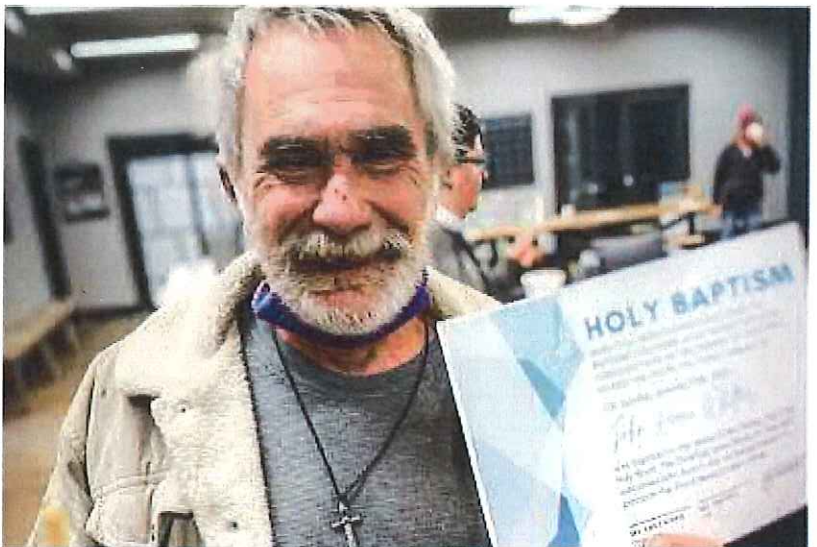


ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Litany

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

God has called us for such a time as this.

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

God has called us for such a time as this.

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

God has called us for such a time as this.

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

God has called us for such a time as this.

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

You have called us for such a time as this.

God of the Fertile Fields

1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
3 As grows the hid - den seed, to fruit that
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

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

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

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

All Creation Sings #1063

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

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Messiah Lutheran Church



Disciples Engaged in Mission

Messiah Staff

Rev. Richard J. Leseganich
Word & Sacrament Roster
Pastor

Deacon John Renfroe
Word & Service Roster
Director of Music

Deacon Scott Van Baaren
Synod Parish Deacon
Parish Administrator

Judy King
Director of Handbell Choir

Messiah Council

Pat Yost
President

Dennis Allen
Vice President

Pearl Slusher
Secretary

Cheryl Crabtree
Treasurer

Melissa Kennedy
Council Member

Arlene McCarthy
Council Member

Jerry Price
Council Member

Phyllis Roberts
Council Member

Jane Schroeder
Council Member

Kid's Connection

Carmen Orozco
Director

Annual Report of the Congregation



*Disciples Engaged
in Mission*



For the Year Ending
December 31, 2021



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AGENDA

Congregational Meeting January 30, 2022

Subject to Approval by Council

- I Call to Order
- II Invocation
- III Assurance of Quorum / Criteria for voting
- IV Approval of Agenda
- V Minutes from 2021 Congregational Meeting December 12
- VI Reports
 - a Pastor Richard Leseganich
 - b Deacon John Renfroe
 - c President, Pat Yost
 - d Vice President, Dennis Allen
 - e Treasurer, Cheryl Crabtree
 - f Financial Secretary
 - g Kids Connection Director, Carmen Orozco
 - h Messiah Mission Endowment Fund, Barb Schoonmaker
 - i Messiah General Endowment Fund, Barb Schoonmaker
 - j Committees
- VII Old Business
 - a Voting on Constitutional Amendments Required by 2019 Church wide assembly
 - b Voting for Endowment Committee representative
- VIII New Business
 - a Adoption of Messiah Lutheran Church 2022 Ministry Plan
 - b Adoption of Kid's Connection 2022 Ministry Plan
 - c Diorama
 - d Looking to build a team of current or retired Nurses
 - e Reviewing Intern Program for 2023
 - f Pastor Sabbatical potential 2023
- IX Benediction
- X Adjournment

Messiah Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting
December 12, 2021

The congregational meeting was called to order by president Pat Yost at 10:40 am. Pastor Rich offered a prayer.

A quorum was reached: there are 226 members on the official roll, 51 attended the meeting, so the quorum requirement of 27 was attained.

Pat Yost started with comments about the activities of Messiah in the past year. Dennis Allen, vice-president, spoke about the improvements to the grounds and other fixes, such as the streaming of the Sunday morning services. Treasurer Cheryl Crabtree shared information about the new accounting program which will be fully used at the start of 2022, which will improve many financial functions. The tithing envelopes will no longer have account numbers on them, so members must write their names on them. She also spoke about the budget sheets that members can take home to review before voting on the ministry plan at the annual meeting in January. Pat thanked Pearl Slusher for her work on the Council minutes during the past year. The other members of the Council were introduced.

There were three seats becoming vacant on the Council for the next year. Three candidates for those seats were introduced: Jerry Price, Phyllis Roberts, and Pearl Slusher, the last two being incumbents. Pat asked twice if there were any nominees from the floor; there were none. Dennis Allen made a motion to accept the slate as presented; Ron Booth seconded. Everyone in the congregational meeting was in agreement to accept these three candidates. Margo Reigel commented that the flyer presenting the candidates was well done.

Thanks were extended to Charlene Frantz, who served for one year as a fill-in member, and had decided not to continue on the Council.

Mandatory Constitutional changes were shared with the congregation, which Scott VanBaaren said were minor changes to wording which would make the meaning of the Constitution clearer. All were in favor of the changes, and a second vote will be taken in January.

There is an opening available on the Endowment Committee; Gretchen Hawk has expressed interest in service on this committee.

Barb Schoonmaker, who has been a member at Messiah for 31 years, thanked the Council and staff for all they had done in the past year to keep Messiah operating as our church. Pat appreciated her comments and said Council members work as a team to ensure the church continues to operate.

George Carter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00; Scott VanBaaren seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Pearl Slusher



Annual Report of the Pastor Rev. Richard J. Lesezanich

Dear Disciples Engaged in Mission,

While 2021 continued to present challenges for how the church's faithfulness to our calling occurs, Messiah rises to the occasion with vigor, determination, and steadfastness. Adaptation and implementation are two keywords that describe how we have been and continue doing the work of Christ. In addition, Messiah abounds with dedicated members and leaders who are willing to reflect upon a situation and follow where we discern the Holy Spirit is leading.

Perhaps the most visible way Messiah has adapted and implemented concerns our worship life. With masks now optional, we are back to in-person worship services. Opening back up for in-person worship with optional masks is significant. We encourage you to wear your masks, With one Sunday worship service, we enjoy a fuller sanctuary, knowing that there are saints of God joining us virtually as well. When we look at the worship attendance in 2020 and 2021, we can see an increase in those attending.

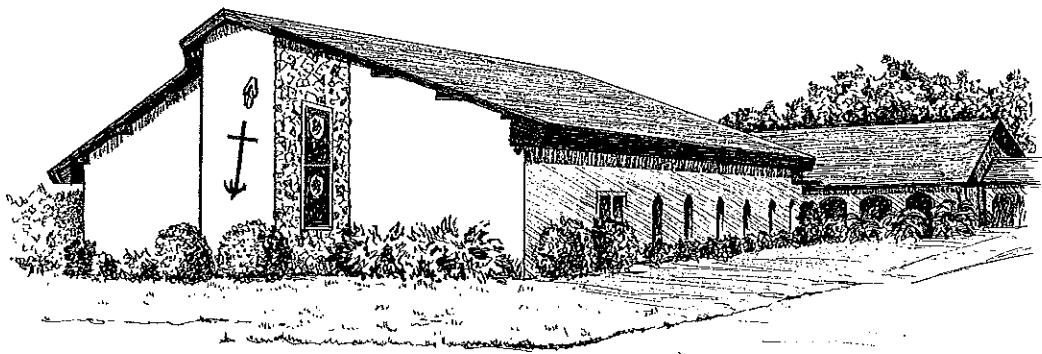
Limited social gatherings are taking place, such as the Wednesday afternoon Sip and Munch Fellowship Group. While we did not schedule funerals or public baptisms in 2020/2021, the year provided the opportunity to return to funerals and baptisms inside of the sanctuary. If you had a loved one die during 2020/2021 and you still desire a funeral worship service, please contact us so that we can arrange a funeral liturgy.

In addition, some adult educational offerings returned in 2021, offering a hybrid method, giving attendees the opportunity to choose between attending in-person or virtually via Zoom technology. We are beginning 2022 with some exciting adult educational opportunities. These include a multi-week series on the Wisdom literature of the Bible, and a monthly conversation with the pastor. My hope is that a monthly gathering on varying topics concerning spirituality, Scripture, and theology will appeal to a broader audience, lessen the burden of heavy commitment, and provide for some meaningful discussion that will enhance spiritual growth and discipleship.

The agenda of this report includes some exciting potential for ministry in the future. I look forward to many more years of serving with this parish. A special thank you goes to our congregational council, staff, and all members of this congregation. It is a joy and an honor to serve God during these times and in this place.

To God be the glory,

Rev. Richard J. Leseganich



Deacon Annual Report
Messiah Lutheran Church Congregation
December 31, 2021
John Renfroe, Deacon

On September 23, 2021, I celebrated my seventeenth year serving Messiah Lutheran Church as your Rostered Deacon. At this point, I am reminded of a phrase out of Rippon's text from the hymn How Firm a Foundation. "... And then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn...."

My call at Messiah Lutheran Church covers the areas of the Choir Ministries, Music Director and Organist, coordinator of the Fine Arts Concert Series, along with the visitation ministries and the hymn selection committee. There are also administrative responsibilities associated with each of these areas. My annual report will reflect my work as a Deacon at Messiah Lutheran Church from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021. I praise God for the opportunities to serve in this setting at Messiah Lutheran Church, as we work together to be "disciples engaged in mission!" It is also my privilege to report to you how God used me to support the various ministries to which Messiah Lutheran Church called me. I am grateful to be a part of such an excellent staff. Many thanks go to Judy King and Scott Van Baaren, our parish deacon. I am also thankful for the opportunity to be in mutual ministry with Pastor Richard Leseganich. I am blessed, indeed.

Even though many people have been fully vaccinated, the Covid virus and all the variants with it are still very much alive. Given the circumstances of this global pandemic, it continues to have a direct impact on the ministries of this church. From January 1, 2021, through February 7, 2021, we had drive-through communion only. We began limited in-person worshipping on February 14th. The Easter service was held outdoors, featuring the handbell choir, a brass ensemble, and keyboards. However, full singing with a choir did not begin until September 2021.

Choir Ministries

From September 8, 2021 through December 23, 2021, the Chancel Choir rehearsed a combined total of 17 times including two extra rehearsals, and they led the liturgy at 7 worship services. In addition to leading our liturgy on Sunday mornings, the Chancel Choir and the Handbell Choir also presented an extra Advent worship service, The Longest Night.

I want to take this time in my report to also thank Judy Young, our volunteer choir librarian for her many hours of work in keeping the music inventory in order. Last fall, she undertook the arduous task of completely updating our library to reflect an accurate counting of our choral and instrumental music. As a result of her work, I also updated our anthems on our computer to reflect the new updates. In case you weren't aware, the Chancel choir affectionately refers to Judy as our "choir mom".

The SonShine choir is a group of volunteers that meets 45 minutes before each of the summer services, and they meet at 8:45 AM on the first two Sundays of the month and during the winter season. They also began leading our liturgies on June 6, 2021, as we began limited singing in our worship services. From June 6, 2021, through December 12, 2021, the SonShine Choir met and prepared 23 anthems.

Out of continued caution of too many large group gatherings, and with the health safety of those gathering for worship, the Church Council and Staff agreed last year that one in-person worship service gathering would continue until further notice. As a result, the Saturday Evensong Choir did not meet last year.

Part of my call and responsibilities at Messiah Lutheran Church is to oversee the handbell choir. You might recall that with the approval of the worship and music committee, along with the church council, I brought Judy King on staff to lead and develop the handbell choirs back in 2005. Over the past year, she has developed a beginner's choir and has developed small groups out of the main choir. Because they were not a singing group, the handbell choir continued their rehearsals throughout 2021. From January 10, 2021, through December 31, 2021, the combined rehearsals for the handbell choirs were rehearsed 50 times.

Presently, the Handbell Choir plays twice a month for our worship services. From February 21, 2021, through December 31, 2021, the Handbell Choir, or one of the new groups from the choir, played for 27 services. Additionally, they played for our outdoor Easter service last April, for the advent service, The Longest Night, for Christmas the Eve service, and for Christmas Day. All of this was in addition to the time she spent reorganizing handbell choir music while calling, emailing, and zooming handbell choir members. I marvel at the way she creatively kept the handbell choirs active during this pandemic season. Thank you, Judy, for your tireless efforts! I would also like to take a moment to thank Jim Slater for his involvement as the handbell maintenance person. Many people may not realize what is needed to keep our handbells in good repair.

Director of Music/Organist

As director of Music and Organist, I prepared service music for 51 services, including 7 virtue services from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2021. I also played for or participated in 2 memorial services.

Additionally, as my role as a called and rostered deacon, I prepared three homilies and eight weekly virtue devotions.

Fine Arts Concert Series

Last December, the Fine Arts Concert Series presented The Longest Night, observance of the winter solstice. As this prayer service remembered the longest night of the year, it also pointed to the Light of Christ shown to us in the birth of Jesus. I hope to be able to report on a more active concert season next year.

Visitations

Pastor Leseganich and I coordinate all hospital, Hope Hospice, and shut-in visits. I report the outcome of these visits directly to Pastor Leseganich, and together, we determine appropriate follow-up strategies. In addition to weekly hospital calls and monthly communion visits, I oversee the visitation committee. On October 14th, we restarted our monthly visitation meetings. As we continue with this pandemic, the committee members will either call or visit the homebound. Their decision to either call or visit is out of an abundance of concern for their safety as well as the parishioner's safety, my Thanks go to, John Baskin, Charlene Frantz Louise Gaumer, Judy Lindsten, and Arlene McCarthy,

The Hymn Selection Committee

This committee meets quarterly on the second Monday of the month at 1:30 PM. I give copies of the planned scripture readings, along with Sunday morning worship themes, and some suggested hymns, to all the members for advanced planning and studies. These hymn suggestions come from Sundays and Season, a planning resource from Augsburg Fortress Publishing Company. The committee studies the appointed scriptures and prepares their recommendations based on the readings of the day to the committee. During the meeting, this committee correlates hymn usage ideas working together as a group, and they make final hymn selections for the following month's Sunday worship services, my thanks go to Edna Cannavale, Bob Reider, Pearl Slusher, and Judy Young for their invaluable inputs and suggestions. This committee is open to anyone who wished to have an input in the hymn selection process.

Worship and Music

The Worship and Music committee restarted our monthly meeting on October 6, 2021. This active committee consists of Pastor Leseganich, Charlene Frantz, Pearl Slusher, Jim Slater, Judy Young, and myself.

Respectfully submitted,
Deacon John

Council President's Report

As a member of Messiah Lutheran Church, you are receiving the annual report for 2021. It was another year of adjustment that required nimbleness, resilience and perseverance and also with strategic thinking,

After two years of having our experience of church turned on its ear, there are so many ways in which it feels like someone moved the church we once knew. As hard as that may seem, is it possible that we are being invited by the spirit to find our way to a new kind of church. . . new ways of being church. . . new ways of connecting with God?

Change is hard for each of us and the year was filled with change. Some of you were use to Saturday worship or later on Sunday morning, we have been offering one service and though people miss the old service times, we have gotten to know each other better and are functioning more like one church. I appreciate each of you that stepped up and tried the new time and volunteered with the service.

It was a year of rebuilding many of our volunteer teams. Some of you had strong experience and some of you were new to the ministry. It has warmed my heart to see the new teams evolving,

We were able to reopen and provide space again for the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, AA and other important ministries. We continue with our strong support of Kid's Connection and the difference they make in the community.

Knowing that we had people who did not feel comfortable coming to church, we have expanded our online presence. As we look strategically into the future this is a new ministry with opportunities to expand our presence in the community and globally.

Our staff has done an excellent job all year long. Pastor Rich, Deacon John, Deacon Scott and Judy King each has brought their own unique talent to the team and provided sermons, music, visitation to the ill and dying and keeping all the administrative tasks going. It takes everyone to accomplish these tasks. There are so many tasks that go into a week of the church. I ask each of you to remember that and if you see something that is not just right, approach our staff with love and kindness to get it corrected.

I have been honored to service as your council President and want to thank each and everyone for their help and support.

I look forward to the New Year with great hope and the opportunity to serve the congregation and the ELCA.

In Christian Love,

Pat Yost
Council President



Vice President's Report

It has been an honor to serve on the Messiah Council in 2021. I have taken part in the conversations and decision-making effort of the Executive Committee and Council throughout the year and have volunteered to assume some of the "Facility Manager" duties. Here are some of the programs and projects that have been undertaken and my role in them:

- Lead the project to find and hire a contractor to repair/repave and stripe the parking lots.**
- Contracted for repair and replacement of some broken and damaged rain gutters.**
- Contracted for the repair and extending of the irrigation system.**
- Supervised the design and installation of two new flower beds at the front of the church.**
- Searched for and contracted with a new landscape contractor.**
- Located and contracted for the removal and trimming of trees on the campus.**
- Lead the live streaming effort to get Messiah on Facebook Live.**
- Lead the effort to provide a suitable shower facility for our homeless neighbors.**
- Improved building security with remotely monitored electronic locks.**
- Lead the project to replace the aging telephone system with Voice Over IP saving over \$50 per month and improving service.**
- Conducted an audit of the Kids Connection and Messiah financial records and management procedures and made recommendations for improvements and efficiencies.**
- In conjunction with Messiah treasurer, established fund accounting procedures for the use of Church Windows to replace Shepherds Staff.**
- Took on the role of Financial Secretary to implement those procedures.**
- Lead the project to get the roof replaced on the Kids Connection Building.**
- Supervised the installation and repair of electrical and mechanical systems around the campus.**
- Lead the effort to research and design a high definition digital sign to replace the aging sign on Pine Island Road.**

The pandemic has caused many changes to the way we interact and worship as a community, but after drive-thru communion seemed to work so well my wife Edna and I tried drive-thru Lenten Soup. We had some good fellowship handing out volunteer-provided soups to passers-by, Messiah members, and Kids Connection Staff. Although we had to hire contractors to do many of the grounds maintenance functions around the Messiah campus, the majority of the work on the grounds is done by two faithful members – Carl Schroeder and Tom Harmer. Without Tom and Carl the grounds would not have the manicured appearance that they do. I thank them for their excellent service and much appreciated hard work.

Submitted,

Dennis Allen
Council Vice President

Endowment Fund Committee Report—2021

The Endowment Committee administers Messiah's two endowment funds, the Mission Endowment Fund and the General Endowment Fund.

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

The purpose of the Fund is to provide a vehicle and structure for individuals who have the ability and desire to benefit Messiah Lutheran Church, N. Fort Myers, FL, Inc., through charitable giving that is consistent with its mission of witnessing to the message of salvation through Jesus Christ on both a local and global level.

At year end, the balance of the Mission Endowment Fund was \$292,370.90.

During calendar year 2021, The Mission Endowment Fund provided a \$3,500.00 grant to Angel Wings of SW Florida. This organization provides housing for unaccompanied women of Lee County.

The fund received a bequest of \$16,000.00 from the estate of George Brockman.

GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND

The purpose of the Fund is to provide a vehicle and structure for individuals to make gifts to the church that will undergird the long-term ministries of Messiah. The monies generated by the fund's annual principal will be used to augment the General Fund of the annual budget and to provide money for the Capital Reserve Fund.

At year end, the balance of the General Endowment Fund was \$145,563.28

During calendar year 2021, The General Endowment Fund provided \$5,644.86 to augment the General Operating Fund at Messiah, and \$1,411.22 was placed into the Capital Reserve Fund.

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

All positions according to the by-laws were filled for 2021 with Barbara Schoonmaker serving as chairperson, Judy Lindsten as secretary, and Cheryl Crabtree as treasurer,

Submitted by:
Barbara Schoonmaker, chairperson


Kid's Connection Year End Report

Year 2021 just flew by! I still must repeat myself of how fortunate we are to be covered under the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost during these fearful times. They are the most powerful keepers of mankind. This is Kid's Connection 28th year of being in operation and through thick and thin and the continuation of Covid 19 we have survived. We've had laughs and tears but I am sure The Holy Trinity was here with us at all times. We continue with lots of love and great enthusiasm teaching our little ones. We have cared for our co-workers who were here to support our mission of giving our little ones a good start towards a bright future. We were opened all year long and we were full to capacity. The Man up there knows our needs and the needs of the community we serve. The Early Learning Coalition gave us quite a bit of financial support through grants and bonuses and the parents were able to keep up to date on their tuition payments. We have missed the children who left us this year to journey into the public school system some of them were here since they were infants. We had their Voluntary Pre-K graduation which was held outdoors. All the families gathered under a big tent that we rented. The children marched out of the V.P.K classroom past the tent and performed from a stage that we set up for them and they got awarded their diplomas. The parents were all teary eyed and super happy. Now we work diligently with the ones that are presently here. It makes us proud to hear the positive comments from last year's parents on how good their children are doing in Kindergarten. **This is our advertisement** the parent's word of mouth that means we must be doing a good job. With the help and guidance of our Lord perhaps Kid's Connection will be able to celebrate twenty eight more years. We always try to maintain Kid's Connection and in 2021 was no exception. Our inspections by the Department of Children and Families, The Early Learning Coalition and the Fire Department were all A's again in spite of how hard it has been to keep up with all the COVID 19 regulations. We also participated financially on fixing the parking lot and the gutters. We put new toilets in all the bathrooms a total of eight toilets. We also put new fixtures in all of our sinks a total of seven fixtures. We painted the two year old classroom and put in new flooring. We painted the three year old's bathroom and added plastic panel to the bottom wall, easier to wipe clean. We put in new flooring in the teacher's bathroom.

This year we were not able to invite the parents as we usually do to participate in all the holiday activities, but we did celebrate all holidays with the children. The reason for this was that we do not let any adults into the center because we are taking great precautions to keep all of us healthy. We greet the parents at the door, give them hand sanitizer before they sign the children in, we take the child's temperature, take the child to the bathroom and wash their hands then we take them to their classroom. In the evening we greet parents at the door give them hand sanitizer, they sign the child out, we get the child from the classroom and bring the child to the entrance for the parent. As you can see it has not been easy but it has worked thank God again!

As always the Creative Curriculum method is still being used Ms. Carmen writes the curriculum for the month and the teachers do their lesson plan according to the theme and what they will focus on for each week. We also include a weekly Bible story so our children are learning the word of God. Also we include a weekly character development. Although we had the Summer Camp children attending it was very hard because we could not take them on field trips.

We also did not use the Family Center which is more spacious for them, in precaution of Covid 19. We used one of the V.P.K classrooms since there is no V.P.K during the summer. We made the best of it trying to keep them well entertained here at the center.

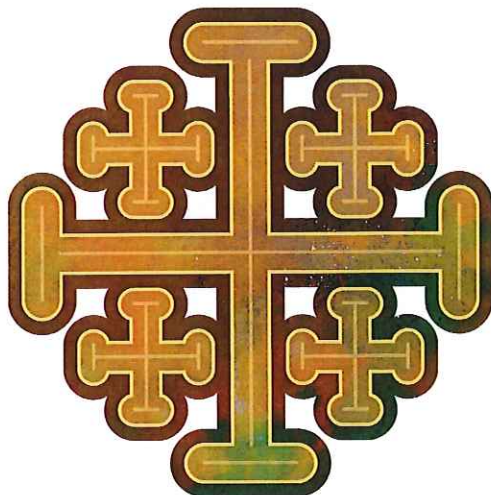
Ms. Carmen and staff at Kid's Connection thank God for giving us one more year filled with strength and health to continue on with our mission to serve the community. We are so thankful to the parents for choosing to enroll their children at Kid's Connection, for the trust they had in us through these difficult times. We are so thankful and grateful to the teachers for their hard work and their constant dedication and love to the children. We are thankful to our Advisory Board for their time and all their good advice. Although we could not meet in person we had our virtual meetings. We are very thankful and grateful to Pastor Richard for being our spiritual leader and I am very sure he kept us in his prayers. We missed John Renfroe this year we hope this coming year we will get together for the children's music program. We are also thankful for the council members and members of Messiah Lutheran Church. We want to thank Scott for being there for us and for all the help he gives us. We give a big thank you to Cheryl Crabtree and Dennis Allen for all their help. We also want to thank the member of M.L.C who from their kind hearts donated for the needed children's Thanksgiving meals and Christmas gifts. Feeling super blessed for the success Kid's Connection had this year in spite of all that is going on in the world around us. Our budget remained very stable. As always we will continue to put all the effort necessary to live up to our Mission Statement and be a blessing to the children of this community. Once again I must end this report by stressing that Kid's Connection is a small center with a Big Heart. 

May God continue blessing Messiah Lutheran Church

&

Kid's Connection

Carmen Orozco, Director





Annual Report Messiah Lutheran Church Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one Christian Caring Ministry that helps people through an unpleasant life situation. The pandemic presented some unique challenges for us to still provide that care while observing the necessary protocols brought about by COVID-19. Innovative methods were developed and successfully used to continue this ministry. Some of our Stephen Ministers were able to meet face-to-face, but tele-care was the primary means of providing care. Texting, email, telephone conversations and old fashioned snail mail worked well to keep connections with care receivers. Two Stephen Ministers successfully completed the Stephen Leader training that was conducted in a new virtual format. Stephen Ministers met twice monthly to participate in continuing education and supervision sessions. Resources to help those grieving a loss were provided to numerous Messiah members and friends. Awareness articles have been provided to Messiah followers through media sources to help those needing Stephen Ministry support. Planning for training new Stephen Ministers will begin in 2022 to add to the existing team.

Submitted,

Dennis Allen
Stephen Leader
Messiah Stephen Ministry Program

2021 Year in Review / 2022 Ministry Spending Plan Proposal

INCOME		Ministry		Ministry	
Minor 00		Proposal 2021	Actual 2021	Proposal 2022	
01	Envelope Giving	\$284,000	\$264,329		\$305,910
03	Advent/Lent	\$500	\$80		\$100
05	KC Surplus Gift	\$48,000	\$48,000		\$49,000
06	Sunday School & VBS	\$0	\$0		
07	External Use Income	\$4,000	\$2,960		\$4,000
14	Congregational Events	\$0	\$37		
11	Initial Offering	\$200	\$0		
20	Loose Offering	\$12,000	\$15,114		\$12,800
24	IRA Income				
	Minor 00	\$348,700	\$330,520		\$371,810

Minor 30 Interest Income

01	Interest Income	\$500	\$351		\$250
	Minor 30	\$500	\$351		\$250

Minor 40 Budgeted Misc.

01	Barnabas Jar	\$0	\$271		\$200
13	General End. Fund	\$5,000	\$5,100		\$6,000
14	Concert Series Income	\$0	\$370		
22	Candles & Flowers	\$0	\$1,233		
	Minor 40	\$5,000	\$6,974		\$6,200

	Total Income:	\$354,200	\$337,844		\$378,260
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2021 Year in Review / 2022 Ministry Spending Plan Proposal

EXPENSES	Ministry Proposal 2021	Actual 2021	Ministry Proposal 2022
Minor 02 Benevolences			
01 FL-Bahamas Synod ELCA	\$24,000	\$22,500	\$24,000
02 Caloosa Conference	\$200	\$200	\$100
04 Discretionary	\$0	\$71	\$0
06 ELCA GM (Barnabas Jar)	\$0	\$163	\$200
Minor 02	\$24,200	\$22,934	\$24,300

Minor 03 Worship Department

02 Altar Supplies	\$0	\$408	\$500
03 Candle & Flower Exp	\$250	\$1,073	\$1,000
06 Music Department-Choir & Bells	\$1,000	\$1,067	\$1,000
08 Organ/Piano Maint	\$500	\$436	\$500
10 Worship General	\$1,000	\$1,942	\$2,200
12 Worship Lenten Cross	\$75	\$36	\$0
14 Music License	\$1,500	\$1,463	\$1,500
15 Bell Choir Director	\$4,200	\$4,202	\$4,500
Streaming Resources	\$0	\$0	\$7,000
17 Special Events Musicians	\$500	\$1,260	\$1,000
Minor 03	\$9,025	\$11,888	\$19,200

Minor 05 Pastor Support

01 Pastor - Salary & Housing	\$68,240	\$65,790	\$71,000
02 Pastor Matching F.I.C.A.	\$10,500	\$9,830	\$10,500
03 Pastor ELCA Pens/Dis Ins	\$12,025	\$9,682	\$10,000
04 Pastor Health	\$13,900	\$13,823	\$13,900
07 Pastor Cell Phone Allow	\$840	\$840	\$840
08 Pastor Auto Allowance	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
09 Sub Pastors & Organists	\$990	\$640	\$1,000
11 Pastor Student Loan	\$2,600	\$2,556	\$2,600
13 Deacon Health / HSA	\$10,000	\$7,989	10000
14 Pr Edu&Prof Exp & Subscr	\$1,600	\$1,720	\$1,600
15 Deacon Wages	\$54,075	\$54,045	\$55,700
16 Deacon Pension/Disability	\$8,500	\$8,065	\$8,500
17 Deacon Auto Allowance	\$2,860	\$2,750	\$2,860
18 Deacon Education	\$400	\$164	\$400
19 Deacon Cell Phone Allow	\$600	\$600	\$600
Minor 05	\$191,130	\$182,494	\$193,500

2021 Year in Review / 2022 Ministry Spending Plan Proposal

	Ministry		Ministry
EXPENSES	Proposal 2021	Actual 2021	Proposal 2022

Minor 06 Committees

02	Outreach Committee	\$500	\$176		\$500
08	Luth Mat/Christ in Home	\$0	\$872		\$800
10	Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
11	Offering Envelopes	\$500	\$99		\$300
12	Cong Events-Coffee&Cream	\$0	\$56		\$100
14	Education - Youth	\$0	\$0		\$0
16	Education - Adult	\$0	\$109		\$500
17	Education - Training	\$0	\$0		\$0
18	Education - VBS Sunday School	\$0	\$0		\$0
19	Diorama Expenses	\$0	\$0		\$500
23	Faith Formation	\$0	\$2,500		\$500
24	Stephen Ministry	\$1,000	\$278		\$1,000
	Minor 06	\$2,000	\$4,088		\$4,200

Minor 08 Administration

00	Part Time Office Assistant	\$2,705	\$338		\$0
01	Computer Expense	\$500	\$1,064		\$2,000
02	Machine Cont/Maint Copies	\$2,000	\$2,185		\$2,000
08	Office	\$4,000	\$6,243		\$5,000
10	Postage	\$500	\$274		\$300
11	Telephone / Internet	\$5,500	\$5,024		\$5,000
13	Office Administrator	\$24,960	\$24,960		\$25,960
14	Employers FICA Taxes	\$6,500	\$6,390		\$6,500
15	Payroll Service Expense	\$1,500	\$1,930		\$2,000
16	Workmans Comp Ins	\$1,430	\$199		\$2,500
17	Council Expense	\$0	\$100		\$200
20	Synod Convention	\$1,000	\$375		\$1,000
23	Website	\$500	\$0		\$500
	Minor 08	\$51,095	\$49,081		\$52,960

2021 Year in Review / 2022 Ministry Spending Plan Proposal

		Ministry Proposal 2021	Actual 2021	Ministry Proposal 2022
Minor 09 Property/Plant				
01	Custodian	\$10,000	\$9,332	\$10,000
02	Electric	\$15,000	\$13,674	\$15,000
03	Insurance	\$19,000	\$25,070	\$23,800
04	Sound System	\$50	\$0	\$500
05	Cont. Maint. / Named Storm	\$0	\$0	\$0
06	Pest Control	\$2,000	\$2,352	\$2,500
07	Building Repair/Maint	\$20,000	\$16,697	\$20,000
08	Landscape Repair/Maint	\$2,000	\$6,159	\$2,000
09	Trash Water & Supplies	\$3,500	\$2,480	\$2,500
10	Landscaping Services	\$5,200	\$6,043	\$7,800
	Minor 09	\$76,750	\$81,807	\$84,100
 Major 03 Capital Reserve				
01	Capital Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0
 Minor 10				
99	Year End Transfer to Equity	\$0	(\$14,448)	\$0
	Total Expenses	\$354,200	\$337,844	\$378,260
	Income Less Expense	\$0	\$0	

Consolidated Ministry Plan Report Year ending 12/31/2019

Accounts	Ministry Proposal 2021	Ministry Actual 2021	Ministry Proposal 2022
Benevolences	\$24,200.00	\$22,934.18	\$24,300.00
Worship and Music	\$9,025.00	\$11,887.89	\$19,200.00
Pastor Support	\$191,130.00	\$182,494.19	\$193,500.00
Committees	\$2,000.00	\$4,088.40	\$4,200.00
Administration	\$51,095.00	\$49,080.76	\$52,960.00
Property/Plant	\$76,750.00	\$81,807.08	\$84,100.00
Capital Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfer to Equity	\$0.00	-\$14,448.13	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$354,200.00	\$337,844.37	\$378,260.00
Income	\$354,200.00	\$337,844.37	\$378,260.00
Income Over Expenses		\$0.00	

Dedicated and Reserve Fund Balances

Dedicated Accounts

Bell Choir	\$6,930.64
Capital Reserve	\$3,360.83
Concert Series	\$10.49
Financial Peace University	\$1,101.00
Food Fund	\$105.00
General Memorial	\$6,263.12
Physical Plant/Land/Utility	\$105,783.18
Memorial Garden	\$9,073.34
Messiah Church Women	\$1,706.27
Named Storm Insurance Deductible	\$89,343.93
Sabbatical Reserve	\$3,390.68
Stephen Ministry	\$5,000.00
Transfer In/Out	\$192.60
Youth / Young Adults	\$5,983.93

Total Dedicated Accounts **\$238,245.01**

Endowment Funds

Mission Endowment Fund	\$292,370.90
General Endowment Fund	\$145,563.28

Total Endowment Funds **\$437,934.18**

Total All
Dedicated/Reserve Funds **\$676,179.19**

Asset Account Fund Balances
December 31, 2021

Messiah Lutheran Church Accounts

Operating Account	\$77,510.30
Payroll Account	\$12,698.72
Suncoast FCU-CD	\$11,259.33
Money Market Fund	\$43,470.72
ELCA Credit Union CD	\$10,014.36
Thrivent Financial CDs	\$156,731.60
Mission Endowment Fund	\$292,370.90
General Endowment Fund	\$145,563.28
Subtotal: Messiah Accounts	\$749,619.21

Kid's Connection ELC Accounts

Kids Connection Bank Account	\$310,000.00
Subtotal: KC Accounts	\$310,000.00

Grand Total **All Asset Accounts** **\$1,059,619.21**

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Kid's Connection Proposed Budget 2022

12/31/2021 Final	<u>Proposed 2021</u>	<u>12/31/2021</u>	<u>Proposed 2022</u>
			Final
INCOME:	\$503,489.69	\$428,132.78	\$542,883.97
EXPENSE:			
Advertising	\$ 1,400.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Bank Fees	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Bus Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 65.04	\$ 2,000.00
Bus Insurance	\$ 1,600.00	\$ -	\$ 1,600.00
Cleaning Supplies	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,923.38	\$ 2,200.00
Conference/Conventions	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Electricity	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 4,179.96	\$ 5,100.00
Equipment Furnishings	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 10,701.98	\$ 20,000.00
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 12,849.00	\$ 10,000.00
Field Trips	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Ins/Liab.Prop.Wind	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 8,619.86	\$ 10,000.00
Medical Plan Teachers	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 340.58	\$ 2,000.00
Medical Plan Director	\$ 4,020.00	\$ 4,020.00	\$ 4,020.00
Misc. dues/fees/administration	\$ 400.00	\$ 286.00	\$ 500.00
Office Supplies	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,075.42	\$ 3,000.00
Paper Products	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 4,786.40	\$ 5,200.00
Payroll Service	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,845.30	\$ 4,100.00
Payroll Tax Expense	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 12,525.11	\$ 24,000.00
Pest Control	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00
Playground Reserve	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Postage	\$ 150.00	\$ 59.53	\$ 150.00
Salary Teachers	\$ 260,000.00	\$ 239,147.01	\$ 270,000.00
Salary Director	\$ 49,419.69	\$ 49,419.76	\$ 51,213.97
Salary Office Administrator	\$ 23,000.00	\$ -	\$ 23,000.00
Salary Custodian	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.04	\$ 12,600.00
Salary Bus Driver	\$ 3,800.00	\$ -	\$ 3,800.00
Snacks	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,567.33	\$ 3,000.00
Special Events	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,117.85	\$ 1,300.00
Teaching Materials	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,290.92	\$ 3,000.00
Telephone	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,458.58	\$ 2,600.00
Training	\$ 400.00	\$ 513.88	\$ 700.00
Uniforms	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Waste Pick Up	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,080.00	\$ 2,200.00
Water Testing	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 7,000.00
Workers Comp. Ins.	\$ 5,700.00	\$ 559.85	\$ 5,000.00
Insurance Other	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Playground Expenses	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00
Capital Reserve to Messiah	\$ 2,400.00		\$ 2,400.00
Year End Surplus to Messiah	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Total	\$ 503,489.69	\$ 428,132.78	\$ 542,883.97
Notes 12/31/2021			
Playground Reserve	\$ 44,700.00	Capital Reserve \$2,400.00	
Insurance Reserve	\$ 7,624.00		
Tuition Reserve	\$ 2,000.00		
Fa. Assistance Reserve	\$ 800.00		

Congregational Report
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021

1. Baptized Membership at end of 2020	411
2. Baptized Members received during 2021	
A. By Baptism: Children (15 yrs and younger)	0
B. By Baptism: adults (16 yrs and older)	0
C. By affirmation of faith	7
D. By transfer	11
E. From other sources and statistical adjustment	9
F. Total members received this year	<u>27</u>
3. Baptized Members removed during 2021	
A. By death	12
B. By transfer	3
C. For other reasons and statistical adjustment	2
D. Total members removed this year	<u>17</u>
4. Baptized membership, end of 2021	421
5. Total Confirmed membership, end of 2021	385
6. Number of baptized youth who were confirmed in 2021	0
7. Average Weekly worship attendance in 2021	
In-Person:	102
Online/Livestream:	178
8. Total number of people (including children) actively participating in the life of the congregation in 2021	<u>772</u>



Where all May Dwell



Emily Norris had been serving at Augsburg Lutheran Church's winter-overflow homeless shelter in Winston-Salem, N.C., for a few years when she heard the rumblings. Many of the guests opened up to her, told her stories. One need kept arising.

"I heard very loudly that there was a deep hunger for a faith community that looked like them," Norris said. They craved space where they could worship God and not feel judged for their housing status, their past or their appearance. Heeding their calls led Norris to Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, to become a pastor.

By 2020, Norris was ordained and serving as the mission developer for the Dwelling, an ELCA faith community designed for, but not exclusive to, people in Winston-Salem who are or have been homeless. *Funding comes from partnerships with Augsburg, the North Carolina Synod, the Moravian Church in America and the ELCA churchwide organization, which draws on Mission Support for the Dwelling's grant.*

Starting a church during a pandemic wasn't ideal. Safety restrictions made worship impossible, and the population Norris had hoped to reach became especially vulnerable. So she did what many ELCA leaders and congregations were forced to do: she pivoted.

After assessing community needs, Norris determined that free mobile showers would be the Dwelling's anchor ministry. Visitors could take showers and receive clean underwear, socks and T-shirts donated by nearby members of the Dwelling's synod.

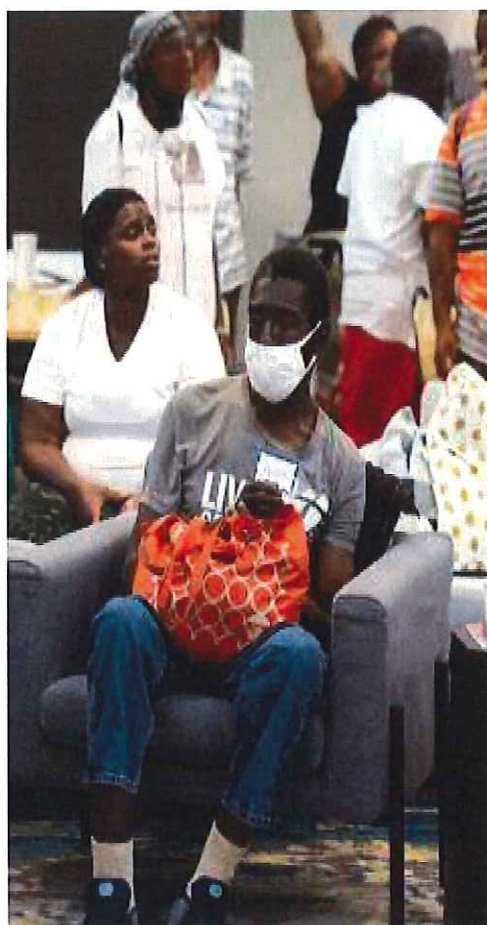
"It was really a profound way to start," Norris said. "Showers provide a sense of dignity and are therapeutic. I don't know a better way to remind people of their baptism."

Eventually the showers became permanent, with participants volunteering to help the program. By Christmas Eve, area restrictions for gatherings had been relaxed, and Norris held the Dwelling's first service. In January 2021, it began offering regular Sunday worship.

With a living room for its sanctuary, couches and chairs for its pews, and free-flowing food, the Dwelling takes seriously its mission of hospitality. "It has a feather touch, where you can come in and get comfy," said member Cheryl Morrison. "It's OK to talk to the person next to you, get up to get a cup of coffee, doughnut or muffin."

"This is a church for God's people — the homeless — and they are the foundation of what makes this church work, which in my eyes is extremely special."

"This is a church for God's people — the homeless — and they are the foundation of what makes this church work, which in my eyes is extremely special," added Ryan Sprinkle, a council member. "You have people right off the street with their backpacks."





A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

The last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic. Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may never have walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how vital they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities.

The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.

While we stay rooted in God's enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings.

Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

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

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

Change and the need for creativity have become constants over the last year and a half in many aspects of life, including the church. This was the case for Living Christ Lutheran Church in Flagstaff, Ariz., even before a global pandemic caused many of us to rethink what it means to be church. Generosity from all three expressions of the ELCA (the churchwide organization, the Grand Canyon Synod and members of Living Christ) helped turn a congregation “on the road out of town, near the mall” into an online presence reaching over 500 people a week from Phoenix to the Philippines. (Read more about Living Christ in the current issue of “Stories of Faith in Action” at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://www.elca.org/SOFIA).)

Many other congregations have found new ways to connect both when in-person worship was impossible and when congregations began to return to their sanctuaries. Generosity, especially through Mission Support, helped us find and support these new ways of being connected. Early in the pandemic, ELCA Worship launched the “Worship in the Home” webpage, with Scripture, hymn links, prayers and reflections for each

Sunday. These resources were and continue to be used in congregations across the ELCA—even at **Sitka Lutheran Church** in Alaska, whose members printed and hand-delivered “Worship in the Home” resources to fellow members without internet access.

Change and creativity have taught us many things. As Pastor Sandra Rudd of Sitka Lutheran Church noted, “The pandemic was a stark illustration of the fact that the church is not a building. A lot of people say that, but we didn’t fully know it until we didn’t have a building to use. We learned that there are many ways to be connected as the church.” Throughout the pandemic, the ELCA has changed and adapted, doing ministry in new and creative ways, because of the generosity of its members. Even now, you may be gathering in a new way for your annual meeting, to discern how you will steward the gifts shared generously with your congregation to do ministry in your community and beyond. As you have these important conversations, remember that your gifts of time, talent and resources have helped create new spaces beyond our walls and buildings where we continue to worship, serve and love God and each other.

ANNUAL REPORT

2021