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**RESURRECTION SUNDAY**

**Sunday, February 7, 2021**

**A Day of Celebration for our Church Family!**

10:00 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Annual Meeting

***\*Please bring this report when you come to the Annual Meeting.***

**2021 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**  
**RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – GRETNA, NE**

**I. OPENING PRAYER**

**II. AGENDA**

RESOLUTION 1 – Adoption of the meeting agenda

**III. ELECTIONS**

RESOLUTION 2 – Recognition of retiring Council members

RESOLUTION 3 – Acceptance of ballot and elections

1. Election of three Church Council members
2. Election of one Endowment Board member

**IV. REPORTS**

RESOLUTION 4 – Acceptance of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTION 5 – Acceptance of Reports

1. Pastor
2. Church Council President
3. Treasurer
4. Endowment Board
5. Ministry Teams

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

RESOLUTION 6 – Action on proposed 2021 Mission and Ministry budget

**VII. LORD’S PRAYER / ADJOURNMENT**

**RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**2021 ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS**

1. **RESOLVED:** That the proposed agenda be adopted as the order of business for our 2021 meeting.
2. **RESOLVED:** That the congregation may express its deep appreciation to the following retiring Church Council members: Jerry Layher, Melanie Van Blarcom, and Sue Lobsiger.
3. **RESOLVED:** That the printed ballot along with any nominations from the floor be the official ballot for the election of three Church Council members and one Endowment Board member.
4. **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting be accepted.
5. **RESOLVED:** That the reports of the Pastor, Church Council President, Treasurer, Endowment Board and Ministry Teams be accepted.
6. **RESOLVED:** That the 2021 Mission and Ministry budget be approved.

**NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**VOTE FOR THREE (THREE-YEAR TERM)**

**Becky Wagner**

My name is Becky Wagner, and I am running for church council. I grew up outside of Hastings, NE and graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan in December 2004. My husband, Kris, and I were married in 2005 at St Andrew's in Lincoln and started our married life together in Gretna. We initially chose Gretna to split the driving distance and were not thinking about schools, church or community at the time, but could not be happier with how it has all turned out for us.

We transferred to Resurrection around 2008. Both of our children, Lexi (11) and Landen (5) were baptized at Resurrection. Lexi is a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Thomas and Landen will start kindergarten in the fall. We are early service attendees and have helped with many activities/programs over the years. I have taught Sunday School and been involved with VBS since 2013. I have also helped with Trunk or Treat, Resurrection Run and am currently in my second year of 6<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation mentoring.

After nearly fourteen years of designing and managing insurance coverage programs for Catholic Dioceses throughout the country, I took early retirement at the end of 2019 to focus on our family and home. Little did we know what 2020 had in store for the world and how timely we would find our decision.

I enjoy making our house a home, cooking/baking, reading, teaching the kids new and old skills, playing games, watching football, playing volleyball and organizing!

If selected, I would be honored to serve as a council member over the next three years.

**Lexie Frahm**

My husband, Shane, and I have been members of Resurrection since 2009, and our children, Soren (10) and Stella (8), were baptized in the church. We are small-town-Nebraska natives; I grew up near Holdrege and Shane near Nelson. I was raised Methodist and Shane was Lutheran ELCA, and after we married, we sought to find a church that fit us as a couple. In 2009, we attended a funeral at Resurrection and left the service immediately knowing we had found our church. Resurrection provides our family the small-town, tight-knit church experience we enjoy and appreciate.

Prior to staying home with our kids, I worked in the non-profit and university settings as a public relations and event planning professional. As a member of council, I hope to utilize my skill set to assist the church's communication and branding strategies. My service to the church includes membership on the Local and World Service team, a VBS lead and volunteer and an Advent Fair volunteer.

Outside of serving as chief operating officer of our household, I enjoy my volunteer work for Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Memories for Kids, Junior League of Omaha and TeamMates Mentorship Program.

It would be an honor to serve on church council. Thank you for your consideration.

## **Evan Kock**

I am Evan Kock. We joined Resurrection Lutheran in 2016 after my wife, Lindsey, and I relocated from south central Iowa. We have one daughter (Adelyn) who keeps life entertaining for us.

We have recently built a house and moved within Gretna city limits. In our spare time, we enjoy being outside and active in our community.

**NOMINATIONS FOR ENDOWMENT BOARD**

VOTE FOR ONE (FIVE-YEAR TERM)

**Jeremy Reineke**

Greetings all, it's an honor to be a candidate for the Endowment Board. My wife Jennifer and our three children; Laurel, Eric and Nathan have been members at RELC for 15 years. During that time, I have been active on the Property and Refresh Teams along with serving on Council two different times. I am currently employed by Bank of the West as a Relationship Manager in their Food and Agribusiness lending division and have been in the agricultural banking business for nearly 25 years. With your trust and support, I look forward to serving on the Endowment Board.

**DELEGATES FOR 2021 NEBRASKA SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

**JUNE 5, 2021 – ONLINE**

Election For 2-3 Delegates

The 2020 Nebraska ELCA Synod Assembly was cancelled due to COVID-19. As a result, the delegates elected in 2020, Lona and Eric Pinkall, will attend the online 2021 Synod Assembly.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

### 2020 Annual Report

Greetings Faith Family – what a year it has been! While we are all disappointed in the limitations that the coronavirus pandemic caused, I remain grateful in the faith, creativity, adaptability, and generosity of our congregation and our Pastor.

It has not been easy. In the earliest days of the pandemic the Council was meeting every two weeks to better understand the situation and make decisions on everything from how to pivot to on-line services, to keeping the staff safe, to whether we should pursue federal loan funds, and when and how to have in-person worship services safely. Like many, we were charting our own course while referencing guidance from state and local officials, the Synod, and our own health ministry team. In following Jesus' command to love Him and love another, the Council put protocols in place to worship safely through this time. We all long to return to our full worship experience. In the meanwhile, we hold one another and our community up in prayer knowing many have been personally impacted by COVID-19.

Despite constraints, engagement by our members continued. Our ministries focused on the needs of our community and the congregation contributed with time, talent, and treasure. Special thank you to the Local & World Service, Benevolence and Mission teams, and those individuals that rose to the occasion to help where needed.

Circumstances challenged our programs to grow disciples, but through much effort and the magic of technology, the adult forums, Sunday School and our Confirmation programs continue. Many thanks to the SEED team and Pastor James for the incredible efforts to make that happen. How joyful it was to worship outside and share lunch on a sunny Rally Sunday to kick off the new programming year!

While Tyler Johnson, our Program Director, left Resurrection to pursue other opportunities, the Council remains committed to the importance of the role to our ministries. Due to COVID-19 we delayed replacing the position but have begun the process to recruit for the role as of the writing of this report.

The visual highlight of the year, of course, was the completion of the Refresh project! What a beautiful and welcoming space that is accessible to all and brings the entire church together. As part the effort, the main entrances of the church now have badged entry simplifying access and improving key control. So many thanks go to Bill Schwarten and the entire Refresh team as well as the many members that contributed to the project. While the final bills have not yet come in, the project was fully funded by the loan, the Kraft Grant, and the matching fund drive of 2019. Thank you to the entire congregation that supported this endeavor!

Also completed was the Sanctuary Altar gilding project which also turned out beautifully. Thanks go to our member family that coordinated and sponsored the effort. Finally, after months of research to identify the source of odor issues in the Courtyard, the skylight was replaced this summer. The contractor agreed to spread payments out over two years enabling installation and resolving on-going issues.

The Refresh project was one of the larger initiatives on our Strategic Long-Range Plan (SLRP). This three-year plan based on four pillars (Invite, Engage, Hospitality, Position for Future Growth) has run its course. The Church Council had intended to create a new SLRP Committee this year to work on updating the plan for another three years. It was decided, however, to defer that effort for another year. It is now time to consider Resurrection's future – our worship experience, ministries, community engagement – how we live our mission to share, serve, and love. If you are passionate about our future, please reach out to a Council member, Pastor, or the office to get involved in the next Strategic Long-Range Planning Committee.

It has been a privilege to serve as Council President this year. I would like to thank all of my fellow council members for their faith, dedication, and contributions: Jerry Layher, Melanie Van Blarcom, Larry Rippe, Linda Karas, Dave Schram, Alex Beiting, Rich Killingsworth, and Darren Elliott. We worked through a number of challenges and did not always agree – a sign of a strong Council with diversity of thought! I so appreciated that we could challenge one another and share different perspectives. Special call out to my fellow outgoing council members Jerry and Melanie, neither of which I knew very well when we joined council 3 years ago. Thank you for your service! I will look back fondly at this time that we served our special little church together in this capacity.

As we continue our mission through this pandemic, I know we all have concerns about the future. With faith, hope, and the Holy Spirit to guide us, I am confident Resurrection's future is bright. I would like to express my sincerest thank you for the many ways you have shared God's word, shown God's love, and served God this year.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sue Lobsiger, 2020 Church Council President

## **PASTOR REPORT**

### 2020 Annual Report

To the people of God gathered together at Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church. Grace to you and peace from God the Father and from our lord and savior, Jesus Christ.

2020 closes as something of a mixed bag for sure. On one hand we have the pandemic which has been damaging to the gathering of the saints within the church building and without. This has caused a host of challenges, even as the lives of its members have been made challenging in the world. On the other hand, this year has provided a brand new mission field for the church as we have sought to carry our message to a world under pandemic. As a result, our ministry has been drastically affected. On the surface these changes hardly bear recounting because they have been so ubiquitous, but as we consider this year, it is still helpful to put voice to them as a way of bringing this chaotic year into focus as we look ahead to 2021.

As a minister of the Word and Sacrament, my primary challenge this year has been worship. It has been exceedingly difficult to lead services where we have been unable to engage in fundamental practices of our Lutheran tradition; in-service communion, singing, chanting, sharing of greetings and the peace, gathering as the body unfettered by mask and attendance limitations. While these things have been difficult and have felt uncomfortable to our Lutheran sensibilities, it is helpful for us to remember that, more than our preferences for worship, we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves and to engage in practices that support that love. As such our worship this year has been shaped by the recommendations and guidance from the synod and the CDC in order to limit transmission and exposure to covid-19. It is important to understand that our posture and policies during the pandemic has been an extension of our faith in love toward one another and the world as a reminder that sacrificial love is the example set by our Lord and taught by the apostles (John 15; 1 Cor. 13).

In order to rise to this challenge, we have taken services online, recording them Saturday evening and uploaded them to our Facebook page and our YouTube channel (which we didn't have at the beginning of the year but now carries a library of over 130 original videos - and growing- that supports worship and education). When it became evident that the pandemic was not going to be a passing affliction, communion was offered weekly on Wednesday evenings at a time when the congregation was accustomed to coming to the church for a meal. While metrics and analytics from views on Facebook and YouTube are dubious the combination of in-person attendance and unique views online fell within the average worship attendance of 2019 and was significantly higher at the beginning of the pandemic when online services were a novelty. If nothing else 2020 has gotten us to think about our participation in the Body of Christ as a spiritual practice and that the worshiping body is not just about who is gathered together in a particular time and place but rather all those who gather in the name of Jesus Christ to worship and praise God whether this is Sunday morning in a pew or Thursday evening at home sitting in a recliner worshipping online through the TV or a device.

Congregational life has also shifted both in terms of education and fellowship toward online spaces as the church developed a new website for confirmation and Sunday school with monthly fellowship events on zoom. Adult education has been offered on Saturdays mornings which took over from devotions and fellowship at that same time and place. This all began soon after restrictions took effect.

One of my goals for this past year was to begin an ESL (English as a second language) group on Wednesday night, supported by the mid-week meal. It would have been a great outreach to the community and refugee population in our county. Unfortunately, we only got through the initial conversations before the pandemic hit. Hopefully, we will be able to pick this back up when things return to normal. In the meantime, the ministry we did create was the care calling network for our members who have become more shut in. Big thanks to everyone who participated in the ministry and it's Fall project of the Christmas bags.

While the congregation was largely away from the physical building of the church a number of projects were finished that should be lifted up. The most obvious is the completion of the Refresh Project Phase 2. The team did a wonderful job of making our physical church as welcoming as our spiritual church. I am very pleased that the building is thoroughly handicap accessible. It also doesn't hurt that the building is in design unity with itself. While this project was going on, we also replaced the sky light in the courtyard which was the origin of the odious smell in that portion of the building. Again, a big thank you to everyone who worked on this.

Finally, I want to thank this faithful congregation who supported and continued the work of Christ at Resurrection. The world changed and we became a church that met those changing circumstances. It wasn't always pleasant and has been a lot of work, but I feel completely confident that the posture we have adopted during the pandemic has been the stance which is most consistent with the final command of our Lord to love one another as we have been loved. This is the kind of love that Paul talks about in 1 Corinthians 13. Even so I am ready for new life and Resurrection, Lord let it come soon.

It has been quite the year, one that none of us would have chosen, but as we go into 2021, I do feel as if we are being led through the wilderness from the viral exile back home. This impulse of the Spirit will shape my goals for this coming year as we turn our attention to the journey back to normalcy even while recognizing that this may be a long and difficult road. But we will walk it together and just like the Jews who came back from the Babylonian exile, we will rebuild, and God will be with us.

In Christ,  
Pr. James

## YOUTH & PROGRAM DIRECTOR

### 2020 Annual Report

Greetings friends,

This has been a bit of a different year to say the least when it comes to the activities of the Youth Underground with no-little amount of difficulty. The biggest challenge, by far, has been adapting to life under Covid-19. Due to the pandemic, we had to cancel our summer mission trip to Colorado and our planned camping trip at Carol Joy Holling. The pandemic also dampened our meeting times this past Spring and Fall. Gatherings still happened with Tyler in zoom sessions last Spring and in-person outside during the summer. During the latter portion of summer Tyler resigned her position as Youth Director and we couldn't find lay leadership to take it over. This presented the second large challenge of the year in that the Underground has not had dedicated leadership and has been stumbling along with me, though we have had help from various parents to whom I would like to say thank you.

Even so, the kids have been fairly engaged. I cannot speak for last Spring, but this Fall we have been meeting regularly once a week up through the Christmas break. Sometimes we have been on zoom and sometimes we have been in person while keeping social distance. Our time together has been divided into Bible studies, devotions, and "fun" activities. This fall kicked off with a bowling event in September at the Mark in Elkhorn and a scheduled trip to Roca Scary Farms in October, though the latter was poorly attended. In December, the Underground conducted a fundraiser during the Live Nativity (Hot chocolate and Eileen's cookies) and earned around \$600, this event had good participation by the kids and parents. The underground also participated in the Trunk or Treat event in October by hosting a trunk and helping develop a promotional video for the event.

As we step into 2021, I am looking forward to the hiring of a Youth Minister who can better take the reins and revitalize the ministry. I also look forward to the return to "normal" so that we may continue our tradition of summer mission trips and like activities. Until then we will continue to walk through this time of recovery together.

This year the Youth Underground's financials may be found under the budget.

In Christ,  
Pr. James

## **TREASURER REPORT**

### 2020 Annual Report

#### **2020 Operating Results**

2020 was unlike any year in recent history due to the Covid-19 pandemic. On the bright side, our Local Offering was only reduced by \$12,427, or 3.8% from 2019 levels, and we were able to add to income from a Paycheck Protection Plan Loan of \$40,400 which has been submitted for loan forgiveness. Most of the Local Offering reductions came from April and December where we usually see an influx of worshippers at our Easter and Christmas services. We also saw a downward trend in giving after the month of June. Compared to our 2020 Budget, actual Local Offering was lower by \$14,340, or 4.4%.

The reduction in services, the mid-year vacancy in our Youth Director position and the hard work of our teams & committees resulted in a net decrease in expenses of \$19,852 from prior year. This is despite of inclusions in expenses of \$20,811 for microphone upgrades. Compared to our 2020 Budget, actual expenses were lower by \$73,712. Approximately \$32,000 of that reduction was in Salaries and Wages and \$12,000 was in Outreach as projects were deferred. We also saw decreases from Budget in several other areas. We also applied for and received \$1,500 grant from State of Nebraska for PPE equipment, with which we purchased a fogger, another hand sanitation station, masks, gloves, etc.

Net income was \$53,181 including the PPP Loan proceeds. Net income would have decreased from prior year by \$7,145 without the PPP Loan proceeds, but increased \$33,255 from prior year with it included.

Our General Fund continues to be strong and, at the end of 2019, is almost \$54,000 higher than the year-end balance for 2019. The Building Fund also increased, by \$1,890, but we saw decreased giving to that fund after mid-year and \$13,000 was used for Atrium skylight maintenance.

The Refresh Fund ended the year with \$27,247, but we are awaiting a final invoice from our contractor which this amount should cover. Any excess will go to the Building Fund. Also, we applied for an ELCA accessibility grant in late 2019, we received approval for up to \$5,000, of which \$2,500 has been received and the remainder will be received upon final completion of our Refresh project.

Our mortgage loan has a 10-year term with a 7-year fixed rate of 5.25% and then a 3-year variable rate. Our monthly payments are \$5,429. Our next rate review is 06/2026. Our maturity date is 06/2029.

#### **2021 Budget**

For 2021 we are projecting the same giving trend we have seen this past year, especially the past half year. While we would like to propose a balanced budget, we are being conservative in our projection, given the virus. That being said, we are estimating a net income deficit of \$13,779.

For our expense budgets, we are assuming being back to normal service schedule after July 1. With our Mid-Week Meals beginning again in September. We have included hiring a Youth Director to begin in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Our ministry teams have done a great job operating at or below their proposed budgets for 2020. Our Outreach team had budgeted to do a Church website rebuild in 2020 which has been deferred and is now being included in our 2021 Budget. Therefore, their budget includes \$2,000 for a website rebuild plus \$300/month for weekly updates.

**Total Annual Giving & Fund Balances**

Annual giving for both Building and Local Offering decreased this year. Fund Balances all increased except for Refresh, which was expected as the project gets completed.

Annual Giving	Building	Offering	Refresh	Total	Year End Loan Balance
2018	\$90,489.16	\$313,529.43		\$404,018.59	\$81,491.69
2019	\$94,680.47	\$322,649.79	\$39,832.15	\$457,162.41	\$486,159.93
2020	\$80,851.50	\$310,859.87	\$21,870.30	\$413,581.67	\$445,634.54

Fund Balances	Building	Memorial	Refresh	General	Total Fund Balances
2018	\$36,160.12	\$37,571.68		\$121,162.22	\$194,894.02
2019	\$108,332.35	\$36,566.25	\$382,066.11	\$136,195.77	\$663,160.48
2020	\$110,221.81	\$41,545.41	\$27,247.06	\$190,146.27	\$369,160.55

Let's just say this couldn't have been done without you, the RELC Church Family. Thank you for continuing to support our Church both spiritually and financially during this difficult time.

If you are not currently involved with one of our ministry teams, small groups or youth programs, I encourage you to find one that fits you. There is truly something for everyone! Being involved in the church provides such a sense of belonging and appreciation for what others are doing to support our mission as we... ***Share God's Word, Show God's Love, Serve God. Amen. Alleluia!***

Linda Biel Karas, Treasurer  
2020 RELC Church Council

## CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
BAPTIZED	821	800	797	673	665
CHILDREN	259	191	194	169	193
CONFIRMED	597	517	515	446	452
COMMUNING	387	450	455	450	287
CONFIRMED MEMBERS WHO COMMUNED & CONTRIBUTED	203	206	225	225	174

### CURRENT YEAR – 2020

MEMBERS RECEIVED	
Baptized	6
Transferred In	1
MEMBERS REMOVED	
Died	9
Transferred Out/Moved/Request	12

### AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u> <u>Pre-COVID</u>	<u>2020</u> <u>COVID</u>
SATURDAY 5:30pm WORSHIP				37	37	16
HERITAGE 8:30am WORSHIP	102	91	90	76	73	
JUBILATION 10:45am WORSHIP	126	132	117	108	103	34
AVERAGE WORSHIP TOTALS	228	223	209	221	206	54

**Note:** Regular services were held until March 8<sup>th</sup>. Restricted COVID services were initiated June 27<sup>th</sup> and held through the end of the year. Virtual services were recorded/posted during COVID, but no attendance was recorded. The only communion recorded after March 8<sup>th</sup> was for Christmas Eve services.

**RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

- I. OPENING PRAYER: Pastor led the congregation in an opening prayer.
- II. AGENDA
  - a. Resolution 1: Richard Ayer moved to approve the meeting agenda. Brian Roeber seconded the movement. Agenda approved.
- III. ELECTIONS
  - a. Resolution 2: Recognition of retiring Council Members
  - b. Resolution 3: Acceptance of ballot and elections. Moved to nominated members by Jennifer Bush. Seconded by Bill Schwarten. Nominee's approved.
    - i. Election of three Church Council members to 3-year term
      - 1. Elected by acclamation
    - ii. Election of two to three Synod Assembly delegates
      - 1. Elected by acclamation
    - iii. Election of one Endowment Board Member
      - 1. Elected by acclamation
- IV. REPORTS
  - a. Resolution 4: Acceptance of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes
    - i. Moved to accept the minutes made by Richard Bergsten. Seconded by Kris Wagner. Resolution approved.
  - b. Resolution 5: Acceptance of Reports: Moved to accept the reports made by Lisa Roseland. Seconded by Linda Karas. Reports approved
    - i. Pastor
    - ii. Church Council President
    - iii. Treasurer
    - iv. Endowment Board
    - v. Ministry Teams
- V. OLD BUSINESS
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Resolution 6: Action on proposed 2020 Mission and Ministry budget
    - i. Moved to approve by Ryan Bergsten. Seconded by Bill Schwarten. Resolution approved.
- VII. LORD'S PRAYER / ADJOURNMENT
  - a. Jerry Layher moved to adjourn the annual meeting. Beth Rippe seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melanie Van Blarcom, Church Council Secretary

## SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

### General Fund

Beginning Balance (01/01/20)	\$136,195.77
Inflows	\$387,043.08
Outflows	\$333,092.58
Ending Balance (12/31/20)	\$190,146.27

### Memorial Fund

Beginning Balance (01/01/20)	\$36,566.25
Inflows	\$13,870.09
Outflows	\$8,890.93
Ending Balance (12/31/20)	\$41,545.41

### Capital Account

Beginning Balance (01/01/20)	\$108,332.35
Inflows	\$80,178.66
Outflows	\$78,289.20
Ending Balance (12/31/20)	\$110,221.81

### Refresh Account

Beginning Balance (01/01/2020)	\$382,066.11
Inflows	\$31,154.25
Outflows	\$385,973.30
Ending Balance (12/31/20)	\$27,247.06

### Church Building / Rentals Loan Information

Principal Balance (12/31/20)	\$445,634.54
Interest Rate	5.25%

**MISSION AND MINISTRY BUDGET 2021**

	<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>Jan - Dec 20 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>
<b>Income</b>			
<b>SBA LOAN PROCEEDS</b>		\$ 40,400	
<b>COMMITTEE INCOME</b>			
<b>Vacation Bible School</b>	\$ 1,500	\$ 746	\$ -
<b>Outreach</b>	\$ 200	\$ 43	\$ -
<b>Youth and Family Income</b>	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total COMMITTEE INCOME</b>	\$ 1,950	\$ 934	\$ -
<b>HALL RENTAL</b>	\$ 800	\$ 300	\$ -
<b>INTEREST</b>	\$ 250	\$ 137	\$ 157
<b>LOCAL OFFERING</b>			
<b>Vanco-Simply Giving</b>	\$ 80,000	\$ 97,042	\$ 95,000
<b>Local Envelope</b>	\$ 245,000	\$ 213,780	\$ 209,617
<b>Sunday School</b>	\$ 200	\$ 38	\$ 100
<b>Total LOCAL OFFERING</b>	\$ 325,200	\$ 310,860	\$ 304,717
<b>MISC</b>			
<b>TAGG</b>	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ -
<b>Bulletin Ream</b>	\$ 600	\$ 275	\$ 300
<b>Kitchen Supplies</b>	\$ 245	\$ 75	\$ 100
<b>Rental Property Income</b>	\$ 23,600	\$ 23,418	\$ 23,600
<b>Total MISC</b>	\$ 24,595	\$ 25,005	\$ 24,000
<b>MISSION - DESIGNATED</b>	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,216	\$ 3,000
<b>SPECIAL EVENTS INCOME</b>			
<b>Thrivent Choice Dollars</b>	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,167	\$ 1,200
<b>Wed Night Dinner</b>	\$ 8,500	\$ 1,546	\$ 2,738
<b>Total SPECIAL EVENTS INCOME</b>	\$ 10,300	\$ 2,713	\$ 3,938
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 369,795</b>	<b>\$ 384,566</b>	<b>\$ 335,812</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>			
<b>INSURANCE</b>			
<b>Property Ins</b>	\$ 11,078	\$ 12,026	\$ 12,804
<b>Workmans Comp</b>	\$ 1,057	\$ 1,201	\$ 1,369
<b>Total INSURANCE</b>	\$ 12,135	\$ 12,006	\$ 14,173

<b>MISC EXPENSE</b>			
Mid Week Meal	\$ 8,500	\$ 2,169	\$ 2,177
Pulpit Supply	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,085	\$ 1,300
Vanco Services	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,222	\$ 1,227
<b>Total MISC EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 13,680</b>	<b>\$ 6,510</b>	<b>\$ 7,572</b>
<b>OFFICE EXPENSE</b>			
Office Temporary Labor	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,750	\$ 1,500
Office Equipment	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
Office Supplies	\$ 2,000	\$ 926	\$ 2,000
Postage	\$ 2,200	\$ 1,954	\$ 2,200
<b>SERVICES</b>			
Copier Lease Base Fee	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,785	\$ 1,800
Copier Monthly Print Charge	\$ 1,500	\$ 861	\$ 1,500
On-Line Acctg	\$ 960	\$ 848	\$ 960
<b>Total SERVICES</b>	<b>\$ 4,260</b>	<b>\$ 3,494</b>	<b>\$ 4,260</b>
<b>Total OFFICE EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 10,160</b>	<b>\$ 9,124</b>	<b>\$ 10,160</b>
<b>SALARY &amp; BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$ 210,100</b>	<b>\$ 178,156</b>	<b>\$ 196,836</b>
<b>UTILITIES</b>			
Electric	\$ 15,000	\$ 14,856	\$ 15,000
Natural Gas	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,253	\$ 6,000
Refuse	\$ 1,140	\$ 1,140	\$ 1,140
Telephone	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,686	\$ 3,660
Water	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,537	\$ 1,500
<b>Total UTILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 27,040</b>	<b>\$ 25,473</b>	<b>\$ 27,300</b>
<b>Total ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>\$ 273,115</b>	<b>\$ 232,489</b>	<b>\$ 256,040</b>
<b>BENEVOLENCE</b>			
Nebr Synod	\$ 26,016	\$ 25,541	\$ 24,377
Other Benevolence	\$ 11,504	\$ 10,279	\$ 9,094
<b>Total BENEVOLENCE</b>	<b>\$ 37,520</b>	<b>\$ 35,820</b>	<b>\$ 33,472</b>
<b>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b>			
<b>ADULT CURRICULUM</b>		\$ 103	\$ 500
<b>CHRISTIAN/YOUTH &amp; FAMILY</b>			
Curriculum	\$ 2,200	\$ 1,014	\$ 2,200
VBS/Day Camp	\$ 1,500	\$ 831	\$ 1,500
<b>Total CHRISTIAN/YOUTH &amp; FAMILY</b>	<b>\$ 4,200</b>	<b>\$ 1,928</b>	<b>\$ 4,200</b>
<b>FAITH STEPPING STONES</b>	<b>\$ 1,193</b>	<b>\$ 908</b>	<b>\$ 1,240</b>
<b>YOUTH AND FAMILY</b>	<b>\$ 2,300</b>	<b>\$ 60</b>	<b>\$ 1,800</b>
<b>Total CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b>	<b>\$ 7,693</b>	<b>\$ 2,999</b>	<b>\$ 7,740</b>
<b>GOLDEN AGE</b>	<b>\$ 300</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 300</b>

HEALTH MINISTRY	\$ 1,000	\$ 411	\$ 1,050
OUTREACH			
Marketing/Outreach	\$ 3,000	\$ 679	\$ 1,000
Resurrection Cafe	\$ 1,250	\$ 629	\$ 800
Website Maintenance	\$ 9,600	\$ 825	\$ 5,600
Total OUTREACH	\$ 14,350	\$ 2,348	\$ 7,500
PROPERTY			
Rental Property Maintenance	\$ 2,400	\$ -	\$ 2,400
Rental Property Taxes	\$ 4,884	\$ 4,907	\$ 5,000
Fire System Maintenance	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,396	\$ 2,500
Interior Maintenance	\$ 8,600	\$ 3,131	\$ 1,600
Exterior Maintenance	\$ 2,200	\$ 3,602	\$ 2,200
Janitorial	\$ 16,400	\$ 14,694	\$ 16,400
Total PROPERTY	\$ 35,609	\$ 28,898	\$ 30,225
STEWARDSHIP	\$ 700	\$ 160	\$ 700
TECHNOLOGY			
Computer Equipment	\$ 1,000	\$ 703	\$ 800
Internet	\$ 1,260	\$ 1,260	\$ 1,260
Total TECHNOLOGY	\$ 2,860	\$ 2,473	\$ 2,460
WORSHIP AND MUSIC			
Choir Accompanist	\$ 1,350	\$ 600	\$ 810
Service Accompanist	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,790	\$ 5,250
Equipment-Microphones	\$ 18,000	\$ 20,336	\$ -
License	\$ 1,225	\$ 996	\$ 1,450
Maintenance/Repairs	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Multimedia	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 200
Musicians for Christmas/Easter	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
Music for choirs	\$ 1,500	\$ 468	\$ 750
Total WORSHIP AND MUSIC	\$ 31,200	\$ 25,787	\$ 10,105
Total Expense	\$ 405,097	\$ 331,385	\$ 349,592
NET INCOME	\$ (35,302)	\$ 53,181	\$ (13,779)

## **BENEVOLENCE & MISSION TEAM**

2020 Annual Report

### **Team Members:**

Del Armstrong (chairperson)

Richard Bergsten

Kyle Slusher (secretary)

Jimm Murray

Sue Lobsiger

Rich Armstrong

**Council Liaison:** Linda Biel-Karas

### **Nebraska Synod/ELCA Mission Share:**

8% of our offering each month goes directly to the Nebraska Synod/ELCA

**Total for 2020 = \$24,868.79**

### **Other Giving:**

2% of our offering is given away quarterly

**Total for 2020= \$6,217.20**

- We have committed to give \$825 per year for the next 3 years to Gretna Neighbors to be used towards their rental obligation. Our \$206.25 quarterly commitment will come off the top each quarter.

#### ***1<sup>st</sup> Quarter - \$1,389.63***

- \$ 206.25 Gretna Neighbors 2019-2021 Rental Commitment (\$825/yr for 3 yrs)
- \$ 792.85 Gretna Neighbors – For Food
- \$ 390.53 Project Hope Food Pantry – For Food

#### ***2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter - \$1,499.53***

- \$ 206.25 Gretna Neighbors 2019-2021 Rental Commitment (\$825/yr for 3 yrs)
- \$ 431.09 MUD Customers – Utilities
- \$ 431.09 OPPD Customers – Utilities
- \$ 431.10 NLOM – Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

#### ***3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter - \$1,377.44***

- \$ 206.25 Gretna Neighbors 2019-2021 Rental Commitment (\$825/yr for 3 yrs)
- \$ 585.60 Gretna Neighbors – Thanksgiving Turkeys
- \$ 585.59 Nebraska Lutheran Disaster Relief – COVID-19 Pandemic

#### ***4<sup>th</sup> Quarter - \$1950.60***

- \$ 206.25 Gretna Neighbors 2019-2021 Rental Commitment (\$825/yr for 3 yrs)
- \$1,046.61 Siena Francis House – For Food Shortage and Supplies
- \$ 348.87 Open Door Mission – For Food Shortage
- \$ 348.87 Project Hope Food Pantry – For Food

**Lenten Offerings 2020 - \$2,269.00**

<b>Lenten Offerings</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Amount</b>
NE Synod - Lutheran Campus Ministry (The Lutheran Center) <i>Offering Ash Wed 2-26-2020</i>	2-23-2020	\$1,015.00
NE Synod - Lutheran Family Service - Refugee Services <i>Offering 3-4-2020</i>	3-01-2020	\$578.00
NE Synod - NE Lutheran Outdoor Ministries <i>Offering 3-11-2020</i>	3-08-2020	\$511.00
NE Synod - Tabitha Health Center <i>Offering 3-18-2020</i>	3-15-2020	\$75.00
Gretna Neighbors Food Pantry <i>Offering 3-25-2020</i>	3-22-2020	\$70.00
Project Hope <i>Offering 4-1-2020</i>	3-29-2020	\$20.00
<b>Total Lenten Offerings 2020</b>		<b>\$2,269.00</b>

**Total Giving for 2020 = \$33,354.99**

## ENDOWMENT BOARD

### 2020 Annual Report

**Board Members:**

Kris Wagner	Chairperson	4 <sup>th</sup> Year
Richard Ayer	Treasurer	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year
Brian Roeber	Secretary	5 <sup>th</sup> Year
Kevin Karas		2 <sup>nd</sup> Year
Tammy Williams		1 <sup>st</sup> Year
Sue Lobsiger	Council Liaison	

The Endowment Fund was established in 1990. The Endowment Fund's principal was funded by charitable contributions from members of the congregation. The purpose of the Fund is to enhance the mission of RELC apart from the general operation of the congregation.

**2020 Financial Highlights**

Fund Principal (since inception):	<b>\$205,999.12</b>
Fund Balance as of 12/8/20:	<b>\$275,385.60</b>
2020 Management Fees (thru 12/8)	<b>\$ 2,334.45</b>
2020 Fund Performance (thru 11/30)	10.77%
2020 Disbursements (as of 12/8/20)	<b>\$ 19,450.00</b>

**Summary of 2020 cash disbursements:**

Tuition Scholarships	\$ 19,450.00
Camp Scholarships	\$ 0.00

The following table shows year-by-year Endowment Fund disbursements:

2020	<b>\$19,450.00</b>	2013	\$14,109.00	2006	\$ 7,345.02	1999	\$13,030.50
2019	\$17,540.00	2012	\$13,969.50	2005	\$ 8,306.50	1998	\$37,835.50
2018	\$15,519.00	2011	\$21,725.50	2004	\$ 8,530.73	1997	\$10,201.00
2017	\$11,495.00	2010	\$13,403.66	2003	\$ 8,517.50	1996	\$16,871.54
2016	\$ 6,833.00	2009	\$ 6,538.00	2002	\$10,046.00	1995	\$13,501.50
2015	\$16,669.32	2008	\$ 7,719.95	2001	\$ 9,698.42	1994	\$ 8,079.90
2014	\$14,409.32	2007	\$10,067.68	2000	\$12,325.00	1993	\$13,897.24
<b>Total \$388,407.28 (from inception)</b>							

The Board established a quarterly meeting schedule, meeting 4 times during 2020.

Please keep in mind that a gift to the Endowment Fund makes a long-lasting contribution to the church and its programs. The Board welcomes the input of the congregation regarding gifts and disbursements. Please contact a Board member with any suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kris Wagner, Chairperson

## **HEALTH MINISTRY TEAM**

### 2020 Annual Report

Blessings to you from your Health Ministry Team!

Your Health Ministry Team is comprised of trained Faith Community Nurses and several dedicated health professionals and lay members who have an interest in health promotion and wellness. The past year has been challenging for all of us and many of our normal ministry activities have been greatly affected by the pandemic.

Several members of the Health Ministry Team, along with other members of the congregation, have been regularly checking in with those in our congregation who may not be able to leave their home on a regular basis due to the pandemic. Everyone involved enjoys the shared conversations, as it provides an opportunity for fellowship.

We continue with newsletters in the Messenger, offering timely information for whole-person health. We also have provided Pastor James and our Church Council leaders regular updates on our state's Directed Health Measures and other best-practice information to minimize the spread of the Covid-19 virus. As the knowledge base about this virus continues to grow and the vaccines become available, we will continue to share relevant information with our congregation.

Our Splash! ministry continues (in partnership with the S.E.E.D. Team) as we mail monthly newsletters with parenting and spiritual formation tips to families with children age 1 month-36 months. We are now serving approximately 20 families in this exciting ministry.

We continue to offer our Medical Supply Closet. If you need like-new medical equipment, you can borrow any item from the closet at no charge for as long as you need it. You can also donate your gently used equipment for others to use. Contact the church office or Nicki Ayer if you have need for equipment.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry continues. Several prayer shawls have been distributed throughout the year to members and loved ones in our congregation, individuals in area hospitals, and veterans who are receiving hospice care. Feel free to stop by the office anytime to pick up a prayer shawl, prayer square, or lap robe for someone who is going through a difficult time. We are hopeful to resume our stitcher gatherings as soon as it is safe to do so.

We hope to resume the following ministry activities soon when it is safe to do so:

- Low-impact exercise class on Friday mornings
- Tai chi classes
- Distribution of colon cancer screening kits in March (if available)

As always, if you have any health-related questions or concerns, please give us a call. We are here to serve you! Also, if you have interest in joining our Health Ministry Team, please contact Nicki Ayer or call the office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicki Ayer

## **LOCAL AND WORLD SERVICE**

2020 Annual Report

### **Areas of Focus:**

#### **Congregation:**

\*Provided meals to families with new babies.

\*God's Work Our Hands with service projects benefiting Least of My Brethren and restocked the freezer with 33 "Caring Casseroles" for people in need.

#### **Gretna & Sarpy County:**

\*Provided emergency money to be used for people in times of need.

\*Continue to raise funds for the Good Samaritan Fund and student sponsorships through TAGG and Best Choice Save-a-Label program.

#### **Greater Omaha area:**

\*Coordinated Lenten Gift bags –collecting 75 paper bags filled with various hygiene, food, cleaning and personal items for those in need – Provided to Project Hope.

\*Coordinated collecting travel-size hygiene items for our hospitalized military veterans.

\*Collected over 200 boxes of jello and 172 cans of fruit to provide Thanksgiving meals for families in need through Project Hope.

\*Provided Christmas gifts to 50 residents in the Douglas County Nursing Home.

\*Collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Omaha.

\*Continued to promote & accept food, clothing and personal hygiene donations for Project Hope food pantry.

#### **World:**

\*Sponsoring 2 primary students in the Nkuu Kati Parish in Tanzania.

The Local and World Service Team would like to thank everyone who generously supported our team's ministry to reach out and serve others in the name of Christ.

**Serving on the Local and World Service Team for 2020 were:** Shelley Schram: Co-Chair, Nicole Slusher: Co-Chair, Rich Killingsworth: Council Liaison, Lexie Frahm: Secretary, Terrie Wohlers, Kari Bergsten, and Lauren Ostdiek-Wille.

## **NURSERY MINISTRY**

### 2020 Annual Report

The Nursery began the year with young, vibrant giggles and fun under the watchful eye of our Nursery Coordinator, Dhani Milliman. Unfortunately, once the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns began, the Nursery has been closed. We hope to be able to serve our little disciples this year and pray that our families are safe and healthy.

## **PRAYER MINISTRY**

### 2020 Annual Report

**Members:** Tammy Williams (Chairperson), Pam Dauner, Deb Wallman, Jon Ellingson, Birgit Schlechte

Due to the pandemic, the prayer team didn't have regular meetings, nor did they host any special events. The world experienced so many changes in 2020. Although faced with new challenges, we prayed that the church family also found great rewards in their prayer life in 2020. I was reminded of a quote from the movie War Room. "Prayer is what opens up the floodgates for God to come down and be involved in our everyday circumstances." We may get overwhelmed with changes, challenges, and struggles in our health, school, work and finances, but God isn't overwhelmed. He listens and answers prayers. Hopefully, our church family was able to see God answer their prayers as well as their blessings through more time at home with the family, making and eating meals together, greeting friends in the neighborhood, and helping those around them.

We had over 33 prayer requests that were sent out via e-mail and phone calls to the prayer warriors. The prayer team also sent out a couple of special e-mails to encourage the church family to pray for healing during the pandemic and to remind them of their answered prayers and blessings at Thanksgiving.

In Philippians 4:6 it says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." We pray that you continue your prayer journey into 2021 and lean on Him who gives us strength.

In Christ,  
Tammy Williams

## **OUTREACH**

### 2020 Annual Report

**Members:** Alex Beiting (Council Liaison), Anne Brodin (Co-Chair), Brenda Fleck (Co-Chair), Ryan Bergsten, Wendy Hirschfeld, Eric Pinkall (Recording Secretary), Bill Schwarten.

The Outreach team helps the church accomplish a variety of things including community outreach, hospitality and member engagement. In 2020 our main goal was to begin implementation of the marketing/communication plan by refreshing the RELC website and developing a plan to manage updates going forward. We hope to have this initiative complete in first quarter 2021.

Additionally, we created a series of re-usable banners for different events (VBS, Rally Sunday, Mid-Week Meal, etc.) as well as “Share the Story of Resurrection” banners to promote the 2020 theme established by the church council.

2020 provided challenges that no one could have predicted. Several of the activities that the Outreach team manage were put on hold for the majority of the year. These functions include: New Member Sundays, Resurrection Café and scheduling the greeters/connectors for services.

We were able to hold the annual Chili Cook-off on February 5. 115 people were in attendance and we raised \$427 for RELC youth. Pastor James won the title for “best chili”! Gretna Days in July is generally the busiest activity for the Outreach team due to participation in the Resurrection Run and Breakfast. These events were canceled.

We welcome anyone to join our team. Please consider this important and fun ministry!

Respectfully Submitted,  
The Outreach Team

## PROPERTY

### 2020 Annual Report

#### Team Members:

Bill Schwarten (Chairperson)  
David Schram (Council Liaison)  
Evan Peters  
David Lawhead

Steve Bergman  
Dan Hokens  
Brian Roeber

Jim Haver  
Miles McMahill  
Jeremy Reineke

The Property Team had another busy year in 2020, as evidenced by the below list of completed projects and the major Refresh project in the sanctuary. We want to extend our sincere thanks to all of those individuals who so willingly, throughout the year, gave of their time, talents and in several cases their financial resources to assist in the completion of these projects. The Property Team understands that the completion of some of these projects could not be done without the help of congregational volunteers.

We look forward to another busy 2021 as we already have a few projects on the schedule. Since we are a team that thrives on communication, if you see a problem or a potential issue, **PLEASE** contact one of us and we will do what it takes to get the problem or issue resolved. Thank You!!!

#### **COMPLETED PROJECTS IN THE LAST YEAR**

- Spring maintenance on sprinkler system
- \*\*Landscape maintenance including Spring Cleanup
- Weekly church property mowing
- Replaced multiple ballasts and lights throughout the building
- Replaced stained ceiling pads in kitchen
- Monitoring of rental property renters, rental rates and needed repairs
- Supervised carpet and hard floor cleaning in fellowship hall, kitchen and surrounding areas
- Constant monitoring of all heating and air conditioning units for proper functioning and filter changes
- Advent tree lighting
- Repair rolling door in kitchen
- \*\*Replaced skylight in the courtyard

#### **FUTURE PROJECTS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION**

- \*\*Fellowship Hall painting
- \*\*Refinish/re-stain the outdoor exposed wood trusses
- Repainting parking lines in parking lot and street parking

- \*\*Tar/caulk parking lot joints
- Investigate installing “Walk-off” carpet at north entrance to eliminate mats that can be tripping hazards
- Look into the feasibility of putting a speaker system to renovate the bell tower
- Investigate putting hard surface flooring in the Fellowship Hall where food is served at the Mid-Week Meal to eliminate some carpet staining

**\*\* - Includes congregational volunteers and the Property Team**

**STEWARDSHIP**  
2020 Annual Report

**Team Members:**

Kevin Karas, Evan Peters, Jennifer Reineke, Kris Wagner

**Team Purpose:**

The goal of the Stewardship Committee is to help our Church community and ourselves grow in our relationship with Jesus through contributions of time, talent, and treasure to support our Church ministry in accordance with what God has entrusted to us.

**2020 Activities:**

All of our communication and activities were done on-line this year to coordinate the annual Giving Campaign. For the safety of our members and due to capacity restrictions, we decided early on to cancel the Stewardship Sunday congregational meal for 2020.

We provided communication for the service bulletins and Messenger and worked with Sue Lobsiger to draft the Council President letter to discuss the importance of sharing our time, talents and treasures. We typically present Temple Talks regarding Stewardship during November services, but we did not have Temple Talks in 2020.

We created pledge cards with help from Jeanne Ralston to be distributed for members to provide their pledge information for 2021. Because most of our members were not able to attend services in person during November, we designed a method for submitting pledge information in a confidential manner electronically to Desiree Stednitz.

We really missed the opportunities to discuss Stewardship in person and hosting the congregational meal on Stewardship Sunday and look forward to the fellowship of being together again to celebrate the joy of Stewardship in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Stewardship Team

***You will be enriched in every way for your generosity.—2 Corinthians 9:11***

## **SPIRITUALLY EQUIPPING EVERY DISCIPLE (SEED)**

2020 Annual Report

### **Team Members**

Lona Pinkall (Chairperson), Melanie Van Blarcom (Council Liaison), Marilyn Ellingson, Lynn Donohue, Matt Flynn

**VBS** – Our theme for the 2020 Vacation Bible School was Rocky Railway! We had an amazing time exploring the Rocky Mountains and learning about how Jesus' power can pull us through at home together! This year was an online program with take-home kits. We partnered with the Gretna Methodist Church and ordered curriculum together. Families that registered by the May deadline received a kit (with craft materials) for free. Participants were able to view the VBS videos online through the church's YouTube channel. There were 69 kids registered.

We were lucky to have some amazing volunteers that created their own videos and sent them to Patti Layher. Patti edited and compiled these into one cohesive project for each day. Joyce Mohling received a Thrivent Action Team grant to help pay for the supplies. Kits were either picked up from the church or were delivered to families. There was much positive feedback was received. Many said that, although it was different, they had a great time with their children. Each day they'd find time to sit down together and do the activities! Each of the families said it provided time for conversation.

**Volunteers were:** Patti Layher (editing), Becky Wagner (opening and closing), Paula Lawhead (elementary bible story), Janel Asche (kid Vid), Lexie Frahm (chew chew snacks), Shelli Wolverton (Pre-K & K Crafts), Tiffany Honeyman (Pre K & K bible story).

**Sunday School** – Open to any child or teen, age 3-14. Superintendent, Lynn Donahue, selects or creates materials to supplement the purchased curriculum. DeeAnn Hartman shares her energy and musical talent leading the kids in song each Sunday. Students in grades 6-8 have the option of assisting with the younger kids or attending their own Sunday School session geared just for middle schoolers. That is the way it was from Jan-March.

Once the church was not able to open for programming, Sunday School also could not occur. The SEED team decided not to try and pursue any online programming from March-May, because of the stress put on families dealing with remote learning in all the regular schools. Pastor did continue to post special children's messages each week on the YouTube channel. In the fall, online programming was developed by Pastor James and posted on the website each week.

The Christmas program for 2020 was a live Nativity held outdoors on the church lawn on Dec 13<sup>th</sup>. The congregation was invited to bring portable fire pits and join us to sing carols in the parking lot. Thanks to DeeAnn Hartman and Becky Schnack for taking charge of this endeavor. Thanks also to the property team for constructing our stable and Rachel Wright for securing live animals for the event.

**Advent Fair** – This was planned for November 18<sup>th</sup>, with advanced sign up required, so we could meet social distancing and maximum capacity requirements. Mardelle Bergsten worked hard to prepare for this event, but this was about the time that the COVID case numbers began to increase again. Two families signed up for the Advent Fair and all the extra craft kits made by Mardelle were made available at the church for pick up.

**Adult Education and Programming** – The adult bible studies, and book discussions took place primarily at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays. In March, these went virtual and occurred on Saturday mornings.

**Note:** *See Pastor James' report for a complete listing of these adult programs.*

## **YOUTH GROUPS**

**LAMBS** – The Wednesday night program for 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. Focus for this year was experiencing God through our senses! The curriculum was written by Tyler and the class was led by Amy and Ed Joyce. The students worked through each of the senses in an inclusive way. Each lesson was structured in the following way:

1. Introduction of the topic,
2. Rose, Thorn, Bud share out. Rose is the best part of your week, Thorn is the worst part of your week, and the bud is the thing you're looking forward to.
3. Reading of the Bible passage they are studying
4. Craft or project that builds on the bible story. Each of the crafts or activities was designed to be useful to the kids or parents.

Once COVID stopped our ability to meet in person, the group had just covered the first lesson in the TASTE unit. The rest of the TASTE unit was posted on our website for families to do at home. On average, we had about ten children that attended weekly.

**LIONS** – The middle school programming focuses mainly on Mentoring for 6<sup>th</sup> grade- an in-depth study of the gospel of Luke with an adult member of the congregation who is not a relative. Confirmation classes were held for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade focus is bible study, while the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year is service learning and being the church in the community and world. Normally, this also includes a middle school lock-in and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade attending confirmation camp at Carol Joy Holling. As with everything else, programming went virtual in March and camp and other gatherings had to be cancelled. Despite all this, we were blessed to be able to experience the highlight of 9<sup>th</sup> graders getting confirmed on Reformation Sunday.

**RELC Underground-** Marilyn Ellingson stepped down from her leadership of this group after many years of faithful service, to allow Tyler Johnson, in her role as Youth and Program director to take over the leading of the group.

Underground began the year meeting weekly on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the basement. Each month, the goal was to offer a life skill, a service project, a fellowship activity, and a devotional night. There were some great parent volunteers

for service projects and life skills, as well as some senior student volunteers. Each shared something from their profession or life experience with the youth. The first “Shrove Tuesday” pancake fundraiser was held in February, in place of the annual Valentine’s Dinner. Funds raised were designated for traveling to Denver, Colorado for our mission trip (through an organization called Service-Learning Camps). Unfortunately, due to COVID, this trip had to be cancelled. Once the pandemic began and our services and meetings changed, the Underground began meeting online weekly. They played games, did devotionals, and chatted about what the kids needed at the time. They met, in person, for the first time since March, in the parking on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Students painted rocks together and talked while social distancing and wearing masks. After Tyler’s resignation in July, Pastor James took over the leadership of this group and continues to do so. However, volunteer leaders are desperately needed to assist.

In July, Tyler Johnson resigned as Youth and Program Director. Due to the many changes resulting from the pandemic, it was decided not to seek a replacement until sometime in 2021. That being said, we are in need of volunteers to assist with our youth programming. Please prayerfully consider serving in this capacity.

If you have ideas for ways to expand the SEED team ministry through additional programs or events, please let one of the team members know. We would also love to add a few new members to our team. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lona Pinkall

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY**

RELC Underground 2020 Annual Report  
(included in the SEED Annual Report)

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR:**  
**JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31, 2020**

Checking Account:	
Beginning Balance	\$ 20,989.66
Plus Deposits	\$ 1,617.09
<u>Less Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 262.33</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 22,344.42
Mission Investment Fund	<u>\$ 150.36</u>
Total Youth Funds:	<b>\$ 22,494.78</b>

## **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

### 2020 Annual Report

2020. What a year.

We started strong with new sound equipment installations in both the sanctuary and fellowship hall in January and March. After that, our plans for the year were derailed by Covid, and we had to pivot our priorities.

Among the many things I've missed this year, the fellowship within our music ministry is at the top of the list. As you know, our volunteer musicians are a dedicated and passionate team of singers, ringers, and players, all of whom are stronger when we are together.

This separation has been difficult spiritually, musically, and socially, but I pray that our time apart will also have fueled our desire to be together so that when we reconvene, we can pick up right where we left off (after some tears of joy, some bad dad jokes, and plenty of laughter).

I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve, and I appreciate the support from Pastor James and the Worship and Music Committee as we continue to work together to find creative ways to continue to provide music for our worship experiences both in-person and online. With that said, we do not intend to spend much time looking back at 2020, and are already making plans for next year in the hopes that we will be able to return to normal sooner than later.

As I share every year, worship is at the heart of congregational life and we are blessed to be called to lead in this ministry. We will come back strong, and I'm confident that I can speak for all of our music ministry team members when I say that we can't wait to join you all in corporate worship as soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
Matt Hill

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

### 2020 Annual Report

**Members:** DeeAnn Harman (Chair), Beth Rippe (Secretary), Matt Hill (Music Director), Jerry Layher (Council Liaison), Matt Layher, Patti Layher, Pastor James Sells

The Worship and Music Committee continues to strive to better support the work of Resurrection Lutheran Church in the context of Worship and Music Ministry. Our committee has several subcommittees that continue to do much of the “behind the scenes” work which supports the Worship and Music activities. We would like to thank all of our subcommittee members for their willingness to serve in the mission of Resurrection Lutheran Church.

It is no secret that 2020 has been a year like no other. Just a few weeks into our Lenten series, we were forced to move worship online, where Pastor continued his “Between Two Lillies” interviews. In the weeks following, our weekly Lenten services and weekend worship services were provided as virtual services only due to safety guidelines in place because of the pandemic. We were also unable to gather in person for our Easter services, which would have included performances by all of our music ensembles during our celebration of Christ.

These new guidelines also meant that our Praise Band, Chancel Choir and Bell Choir could no longer rehearse together or perform at worship due to safety restrictions. Our music ensembles are so important to our ministry and we want to thank all of our ensemble members for their work this year. We look forward to hearing you perform in person soon.

For the short amount of time that we were able to worship in person, we enjoyed the talents of our worship accompanists Sheri Feala and Jessica Demitor, whom we also welcomed as our Chancel Choir accompanist. We were also able to welcome back Connie and Mark Dunwoody.

When Phase II allowed us to return to worship with limited attendance, we opted to continue the Saturday evening service and provide a 10:00 a.m. Sunday service, both as a blended style service. Due to the pandemic and safety restrictions, we are unable to sing along with our hymns and worship songs. Thank you to Matt Hill and Connie Dunwoody who pre-recorded our worship music to be played safely for each service.

In May and September, we hosted two drive-in services in the North parking lot, keeping within the safety guidelines. Both were well attended and enjoyed by those in attendance. Our September service was followed by a sack lunch picnic in the parking lot with socially distanced fellowship and beautiful weather.

Our committee continues to maintain the sound and video systems in the fellowship hall which required us to upgrade our wireless microphones and frequencies so that they are operating legally and with improved reliability. If nothing else, this year has taught us the importance of technology and the need for livestream worship services, funerals, etc...

We will continue to make improvements that will allow us to share worship services with those who cannot attend in person.

As 2020 comes to a close, our Christmas services look different as well. While hosting four services on Christmas Eve, attendance is limited for safety reasons. Our favorite Christmas carols will be heard but not sung together during our indoor services.

Finally, Jennifer Bush has served as the Worship & Music Chair for the past year or so and decided to step down a few months ago. We appreciate all of the work that Jennifer has done to help our committee become more organized and supportive of our various subcommittees.

As we look forward to 2021, may we appreciate the ability to worship together without social distancing, rejoice and sing our favorite worship songs without face coverings and share the peace with a handshake or hug. If you have an interest in becoming a member of the W&M team or any of our subcommittees, feel free to reach out to one of our team members.

Serving in God's Spirit,  
Worship & Music Committee

## **TECHNOLOGY TEAM**

### 2020 Annual Report

- Provided funding for the church website and ongoing office 365 subscriptions
- Purchased new monitors for the main office PC
- Purchased and installed PC to replace outdated device
- Supported installation of 2 televisions to be to display messaging
- Numerous support calls were fielded
- Coordinated installation of new WiFi access point in new entry
- Hardware refresh will be required in 2021

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

### 2020 Annual Report

Our Women were able to meet in January and February for Bible studies, but due to the pandemic we cancelled the rest of the year. We miss the fellowships we enjoy as we would meet in person for Bible studies but look forward to gathering together in 2021.

One of our long-time members, Jeanne Fleck passed away this year. Jeanne was a member of the Ruth/Miriam Circle and served in various officer roles. Jeanne also was a long-time member of our Lutheran World Relief quilting group.

No funeral luncheons were served this year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The Lutheran World Relief Quilting group met throughout the year, adhering to COVID-19 restrictions. We sent 56 quilts to LWR in November. They were blessed at a church service in October. This year we continued with the practice of giving a quilt to our graduating high school seniors. There were 14 seniors who received quilts this year. We started meeting with the graduates and their families in February but waited until June to finish tying the quilts. The giving of the quilts was done by Zoom with Pastor James in July. We thank all who helped sew the tops together for LWR, senior quilts, and the families who were able to adjust schedules to meet to tie their quilts.

Thank you to Diane Bergman for the purchase of shelving and storage containers in the quilt room through her Thrivent Action Plan.

Thank you to the women who continue to change paraments and call people for flowers and bulletins, during this past year. We are blessed by all who help and look forward to returning to regular services in 2021.

Respectively submitted,  
Judy Feit

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP TREASURER REPORT**

2020 Annual Report

**Beginning Balance - January 1, 2020** **\$ 2,347.04**

**Receipts:**

Offering	\$ 123.00
Donations for Sr. Quilts	490.00
Resurrection Church - for Sr. Quilts	200.00

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**Total Received** **\$ 813.00**

**Expenses**

Senior Quilt Supplies	132.56
Memorial for Jeanne Fleck	100.00

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**Total Expenses** **\$ 232.56**

**Ending Balance - December 31, 2020** **\$ 2,927.48**

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Westenburg and Karen Hitz, Co-Treasurers