

# Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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## 2020 Annual Report



Presented at the Annual Meeting, January 31, 2021

### Agenda

I. Welcome and opening prayer	Pastor Raabe
Call to order and introduction of parliamentarian	President Gary Waalkens
Determination of quorum	
II. Year in review and presentation of the 2021 budget	Pastor Raabe
Motion to approve, discussion, vote	President Gary Waalkens
III. Introduction of current Council members	Pastor Raabe
Thanksgiving for service: Richard Tooley, Susy Pawl	
Election of new Council members	President Gary Waalkens
IV. Constitutional amendment on membership	President Gary Waalkens
V. Closing: The Lord's Prayer	Pastor Raabe

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## The Year 2020: A Pillar of Cloud by Day and a Pillar of Fire by Night Pastor's Report, by Nancy Raabe

When I searched scripture for passages that express what we as a congregation went through in 2020, I kept returning to Exodus. I am surely no Moses, but we are definitely the people of God who have been wandering in the wilderness. However, our wandering has hardly been aimless, as was most of the Israelites' 40-year ordeal. We have been responding as best we can, never being able to see very far ahead but remaining certain that God has been leading us through this time—as certain as we are of our salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We have been tried and tested, and are the stronger and more resilient for it. My gratitude to each of you for your faithfulness to Holy Trinity knows no bounds.

*"The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night." (Exodus 13:21)*

### **Our online service**

Remember back last March? News of the virus had begun to circulate but we had no idea what was coming. On March 7 we hosted 100 people here for Bud Herman's funeral, then decided that March 15 would be our last in-person worship service for the time being. I had long resisted putting a camera in the sanctuary, but that morning I set up my phone facing the pulpit and later posted the sermon only as a blurry first attempt at a YouTube video for those who had chosen not to attend. The following Sunday I recorded the service from home. In the weeks to come tried out different locations around our house and yard. Carol and I decided on Palm Sunday to go back inside for worshipers who had been missing our beautiful sanctuary. With Carol on the organ and John Ray on euphonium, Palm Sunday and Easter were as celebratory as we could make them with our limited resources. (Easter Sunday remains our all-time high at 212 YouTube views!) Then home again for the next several weeks, which is where our council felt I should be; then as virus worsened and the weeks stretched on, we came back into the sanctuary "for good" on Pentecost. Since then I have been trying to be more creative with the videos, adding different elements and images, and recording the sermon in environments which reflected the Gospel reading (my favorite was from a lush cornfield when we had the "good soil" reading from Matthew) and trying out other features the online format makes possible. In the new year I am feeling the need to take our online service "to the next level" but am not sure what that might be without a considerable investment in new equipment.



*"The eyes of all look to you, giving them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing." (Psalm 145:15-16)*

### **Leaders step up**

Clearly strong leadership was going to be required to steer us through the time of our building closure. Our Congregation Council readily stepped up and agreed to start meeting twice a month, rather than just once, a practice they are continuing. Their commitment to this congregation has truly been extraordinary as they have wrestled at every meeting with all kinds of challenges and dilemmas that we never expected having to face. In late spring they convened a Task Force for Regathering, with Sandi Brewer and Wendy Franke as key members. Sandi's strong health care background and Wendy's

training in chemical engineering have been invaluable sources of wisdom to guide this group's work. The Task Force developed guidelines for cleaning, sanitizing, and regathering that remain ready to go once we put that plan in motion.

*"Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night ever left its place in front of the people."* (Exodus 13:22)

### **Our drive-in service**

As the weather warmed up, the council started talking about having a drive-in service. We had no idea how it would be received; let's just try it once, we decided, and we'll evaluate afterward whether to try it again. We agreed that the online service needed to continue, in any event. Dave Pawl generously lent us his professional-quality PA system, and we set the big date for June 14 at 10 a.m. Would anyone even show up, we wondered? Well: Not only did you come, but you gave us a great round of applause at the end! After skipping a Sunday so the council could vote on whether to continue, we used Dave's equipment one more week and then purchased our own using Memorial Funds. As a result, something we "never in a million years" would have considered doing, worshiping in our parking lot, has now become our standard way of gathering as the church. Since the cold weather forced us to retreat into our cars, the signal has been coming clearly on 87.9 FM.

*"Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day.'" (Exodus 16:4)*

### **A change of pace at Second Harvest**

When we closed our building in March, one looming question was what to do about the monthly mobile food pantry that we have been hosting for some 15 years. Clearly we could not have people and volunteers crowding into the building as we had been accustomed to doing. Thanks to the generosity of the Marshall Schools, Superintendent Dan Grady and High School Principal Eugene Syvrud, the perfect solution was arrived at: We would continue to host on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, but as a drive-through distribution in the school lot. The semi arrives between 12:15 and 12:30, volunteers unload, stack, and organize the contents of the pallets, and the long lines of waiting drivers begin to move quickly as soon as we are ready to go. The entire distribution, not counting setup and tear-down, can now take as little as 30-45 minutes! This enables us to continue to serve 150-200 families each month. We are deeply grateful for the workers who have persevered into the cold temperatures of winter. When the high school fully resumes in-person instruction in March, if we cannot arrange for a later time in the afternoon we may resort to "Plan B" which we considered but have not yet implemented—to move to Firemen's Park, if we will continue to have the blessing of the Village of Marshall for this change of location.



*"At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God."* (Exodus 16:12)

### **And then there were...fundraisers**

By February of last year, plans we were already well underway for a late-March Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction. But as we surveyed the landscape of the developing pandemic, we realized that this annual event would not be able to take place as we'd hoped. So we put it on hold, stored Kathy Deneen's 15 gallons of spaghetti sauce in various freezers, and began to consider whether we could still hold our annual Garage Sale. In early summer we finally decided to proceed with a revised date of mid-September. Deb Percy began working her magic, collecting and sorting donations as Linda Baldrige headed up the organizational end and Tiffany Chadwick helped with professional signage. The council approved rigorous safety measures in line with Dane County orders, and the event proceeded much as it always has, although without the usual crowds since we were committed to allowing no more than 10 in an area at a given time. The end result: Not only did we end up raising more than last year, but we were not aware of a single instance of virus transmission that resulted from the event, making it a success in every way. Then it was on to figuring out what to do with all that spaghetti sauce. I suggested the idea of a drive-through spaghetti dinner, randomly picking Martin Luther's birthday on Nov. 11 to give us plenty of planning time and a nice mid-week meal option for busy families. It produced yet another small miracle: Even without the silent auction component, the resulting sales were roughly the same as we generated from last year's event, especially since all food and supplies were donated. The spirits of all involved were lifted by the enthusiasm of our teenage ushers and runners who expertly took orders and rushed them to waiting cars. Tiffany again contributed a delightful graphic that helped tie the entire event together. We are quite certain that Martin Luther and a plate of spaghetti have never appeared in the same frame before! All this was hardly 'manna from heaven,' because it required incredibly hard work by many people, but God gave us all the strength to persevere.



*"And he will give his angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone." (Psalm 91:11-12)*

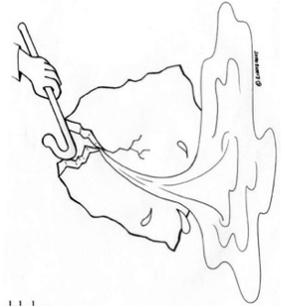
### **Sale of the parsonage**

As weeks of not being able to gather stretched into months, the council faced the reality that we were unlikely to be able to use the parsonage in the foreseeable future. The women's Bible study and occasional youth group and Garage Sale planning meetings had been held there, along with the Pastor's Christmas party, but the house was never utilized as a regular gathering space. Concern grew over mounting expenses to maintain the house properly. Knowing that most churches have given up their parsonages as pastors prefer to find their own housing, the Endowment Investment Committee and Council recommended that it be listed for sale. The decision was affirmed by the congregation in a special meeting in late September. After just a week on the market, we received an offer above asking price which the congregation ultimately voted to accept. The sale closed on Dec. 23 and the proceeds were directed to Thrivent to offset much of the mortgage that had loomed over us for so long. Although ELCA guidelines require that churches without a parsonage must include housing as part the pastor's compensation package, this is more than offset by savings in parsonage maintenance costs and mortgage principal and interest payments. We continue to be grateful for the abundance of in-kind gifts of materials and labor from an array of Holy Trinity members that enabled us to sell a property of which we could be proud, and we wish the new owners well in their happy home.

*“Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” (Exodus 17:6)*

### **The state of giving**

But what of our income? Even with our drive-in service and its “offering bin,” church leadership was apprehensive about whether offerings would continue at the same pace we had enjoyed in 2019. Then, as April dragged into May and we were wondering how we would manage, two things happened. First, we became aware of our eligibility for the Small Business Administration’s Payroll Protection Program. With quick work by Owen in pulling together a mountain of paperwork, we submitted our application and soon received \$13,300 in a fully forgivable loan. At around the same time a few members made extraordinary gifts that allowed us to breathe freely again. Our confidence grew that, if our online giving and regular offerings continued, we would make it through the year successfully—which we did!



*“Moses said, ‘This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Let an omer of it [manna] be kept throughout your generations, in order that they may see the food with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.’” (Exodus 16:32)*

We have much to show for our year of wilderness wandering:

- A greater capacity for creative solutions to unexpected challenges
- Bolder determination to respond to God’s call with all the gifts and talents at our disposal
- A deeper commitment to the community of faith that is Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

We await with eager expectation that great time when we may once again gather freely together inside to share worship, fellowship, stories, prayers, and the great hymns of our faith. Until then I encourage you to continue practice singing boldly in your cars or homes, because I will want to HEAR those strong voices when we finally resume our regular worship life inside our building.

*We are stronger together.* This conviction will carry us into 2021 and beyond as we rejoice in hope, remain patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer. In the meantime, please do everything in your power to stay safe. Take no chances, and for goodness’ sake, welcome the vaccine when your turn comes around. A sore arm for a day is a small price to pay for lives saved.

May the peace of God which surpasses all human understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Yours in Christ’s love,  
Pastor Raabe



## TRANSITIONS

### ✝ Remembrance of the faithful departed, 2020 ✝

Bud Herman  
Ron Schaap  
Richard Goss  
Gladys Woelffer  
Janice Gumz  
Diane Leistikow  
Betty Madaus  
Donald Kleven

### Funerals of non-members

Wayne Vogel  
Linda Madaus

### Weddings

Faith Zerkle and Marc Chapman  
Lori Hatzinger and Dale McIntosh

### Transfers

Brenda Marshall to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waterloo  
Moved out of the area: Liz and Brian Vent

*For he shall give his angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. (Psalm 91:11)*



## Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council Summary for 2020

We began meeting twice monthly in March due to the COVID-19 virus. We had to make some serious but necessary decisions because of the virus. We had to close the church to inside worship for everyone's safety. We set up a committee to come up with protocols to use when we did reenter the church. We started out with virtual services on YouTube and then the idea was formed to have a drive-up service in our parking lot. Dave Pawl was gracious enough to let us use his sound equipment and instruct us in how to use it. We eventually got our own sound equipment. We were unsure how it would go, but it went off beautifully. We kept it going and it is still going in 2021 and will be if the weather holds out. We also had an outdoor Sunday School for a month or so. I wish we could have had a better turnout for that, but my thanks to the children who did attend and to their parents for bringing them.

I am thankful for the people that I serve with on the council. They have good ideas, and they care about Holy Trinity. God bless them all. We raised money and resurfaced our parking lot. We had a successful Garage and Bake Sale. We, even though it was postponed, held our spaghetti dinner. We did it as a drive up and it was successful. Thanks to everyone who helped with all those events.

We sold our parsonage and used the proceeds to pay down our mortgage. With the plan we have going now we hope to have the mortgage paid off by February of 2022.

The council continues to monitor the COVID-19 virus and when we feel it is safe, we will return inside the church for services. Until then we still have the virtual and drive – up services. We sincerely ask that you be patient, the day will come when we can meet inside again.

God bless you all.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary H. Waalkens Council President

### **Sunday School in 2020**

The 2020 Sunday School program was a success. Although traditional Sunday School programming was cut short and Vacation Bible School was not possible due to safety measures in place during the pandemic, a six-week outdoor program focusing on nature was created for the Fall. Meeting outdoors allowed for having fun at a safe distance while exploring God's amazing creations. Each week a different aspect of nature was highlighted. The younger children played games and created art projects while older children discussed scripture in greater detail. Despite the pandemic there were a number of regular attendees. Pastor Raabe provided virtual children's sermons throughout the year. A virtual Christmas pageant of the sights and sounds of the first Christmas was created by families submitting video clips reading their parts and Pastor Raabe combined them together. There was also a Children's Christmas Workshop in which families could pick up bags of supplies for kids to make cards and ornaments to brighten people's holiday season. There was a Zoom decorating session in coordination with this event for families to attend, and the brightly colored ornaments hung on our big church tree during Advent and Christmas.



As we begin 2021 we are filled with hope that we may resume our Sunday School program soon. We are currently planning an end of winter/early spring materials distribution for families. When we are able to resume regular activities, we will need additional teachers for all age groups. Our goal is to have multiple teachers for all ages to provide flexibility for teachers in scheduling and also to provide children with a breadth of perspectives and an opportunity to get to know more caring adults in the congregation. Please contact us if you are interested.

Submitted by Susy Pawl, Sunday School Council Liaison

**PROPOSED SPENDING PLAN 2021**

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Balance Sheet**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>Balance 1/20</b>	<b>Balance 1/21</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
Church building, insured value	\$1,586,416	\$2,434,200	Council
Parsonage, insured value	\$213,732	\$0	
Checking Account			
General fund	-\$408	\$3,280	Council
Building/Maintenance fund	\$1,687	\$2,600	Council
Garage and parsonage sale proceeds		\$5,280	Council
Sunday School Account	\$2,021	\$1,539	Council
WELCA Checking Account	\$437	\$615	WELCA
Endowment Fund, Edward Jones	\$25,207	\$26,528	Council, Committee
Pastor's Assistance Fund		\$1,300	Council
Restricted Savings Account	\$3,559	\$3,569	Council, Committee
Memorial Fund	\$2,562	\$2,082	Council, Committee
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,835,213</b>	<b>\$2,480,993</b>	

**OBLIGATIONS**

**Owed to**

Church mortgage	<b>\$311,256</b>	<b>\$43,482</b>	Thrivent
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	<b>2020 Actuals through 11/20</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2021 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Difference Between 2020 and 2021 Budget</b>	<b>Difference Between 2020 Actuals and Budget</b>
<b>INCOME</b>					
Offerings	\$74,237.55	\$82,000.00	\$75,000.00	(\$7,000.00)	(\$7,762.45)
Building/Maintenance Fund	\$44,906.00	\$45,000.00	\$30,000.00	(\$15,000.00)	(\$94.00)
Stewardship Campaign			\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas	\$4,088.00	\$4,000.00	\$2,000.00	(\$2,000.00)	\$88.00
Pastor's Assistance Fund	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Grants, Thrivent	\$14,740.60	\$800.00	\$1,300.00	\$500.00	\$13,940.60
Fundraisers	\$2,720.42	\$11,125.00	\$4,000.00	(\$7,125.00)	(\$8,404.58)
Building Usage	\$882.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	(\$1,000.00)	(\$1,118.00)
Parsonage Sale	\$3,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,900.00
<b>INCOME TOTAL</b>	<b>\$147,474.57</b>	<b>\$144,925.00</b>	<b>\$125,300.00</b>	<b>(\$19,625.00)</b>	<b>\$2,549.57</b>
<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,530.65</b>	<b>(\$3,074.00)</b>	<b>(\$18,171.66)</b>	<b>(\$15,097.66)</b>	<b>\$12,604.65</b>

## HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Proposed Budget 2021

	2020 Actuals through 11/20	2020 Budget	2021 Proposed Budget	Difference Between 2020 and 2021 Budget	Difference Between 2020 Actuals and Budget
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
<b>STAFF AND SUPPORT</b>					
Salaries	\$54,550.54	\$59,982.00	\$65,919.66	\$5,937.66	(\$5,431.46)
Health, Pension, Benefits	\$13,668.78	\$18,025.00	\$18,375.00	\$350.00	(\$4,356.22)
Pastor Housing			\$24,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$0.00
Substitute Pastors		\$500.00	\$300.00	(\$200.00)	(\$500.00)
Workers Comp Insurance	\$455.00		\$471.00	\$471.00	\$455.00
<b>STAFF AND SUPPORT SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$68,674.32</b>	<b>\$78,507.00</b>	<b>\$109,065.66</b>	<b>\$30,558.66</b>	<b>(\$9,832.68)</b>
<b>MINISTRY OF WORSHIP</b>					
Worship Supplies	\$1,404.19	\$1,600.00	\$1,900.00	\$300.00	(\$195.81)
Office Supplies	\$3,594.20	\$3,500.00	\$4,050.00	\$550.00	\$94.20
Website, Publicity	\$338.00	\$850.00	\$550.00	(\$300.00)	(\$512.00)
Synod Meetings	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$200.00	(\$400.00)	(\$600.00)
<b>MINISTRY OF WORSHIP SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,336.39</b>	<b>\$6,550.00</b>	<b>\$6,700.00</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>	<b>(\$1,213.61)</b>
<b>BUILDINGS SUPPORT</b>					
Utilities	\$4,294.57	\$5,790.00	\$5,800.00	\$10.00	(\$1,495.43)
Maintenance, Lawn, Snow, Garbage	\$6,655.00	\$3,850.00	\$6,175.00	\$2,325.00	\$2,805.00
Property Insurance	\$5,013.95	\$5,500.00	\$3,731.00	(\$1,769.00)	(\$486.05)
Mortgage Payments	\$44,870.00	\$43,044.00	\$12,000.00	(\$31,044.00)	\$1,826.00
Parsonage Expenses	\$3,099.69	\$4,758.00	\$0.00	(\$4,758.00)	(\$1,658.31)
<b>BUILDINGS SUPPORT SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$63,933.21</b>	<b>\$62,942.00</b>	<b>\$27,706.00</b>	<b>(\$35,236.00)</b>	<b>\$991.21</b>
<b>EXPENSES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$137,943.92</b>	<b>\$147,999.00</b>	<b>\$143,471.66</b>	<b>(\$4,527.34)</b>	<b>(\$10,055.08)</b>

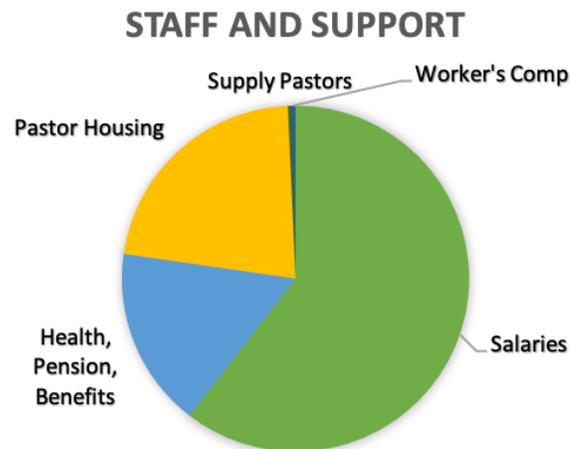
### NARRATIVE BUDGET: Where does our income go?

#### STAFF AND SUPPORT

##### A. The Pastor

##### Worship

Preparation for Sunday worship begins the previous Monday with a survey of the readings for the coming Sunday. I discern what the central theme is, decide which reading to focus on, and begin studying the book, the context and individual phrases and words. I enjoy comparing translations. Then I try to develop an approach to the sermon that connects the scripture with the world in which we live. On Tuesday and Wednesday, I work with Carol's hymn suggestions and assemble the rest of the service from various resources. On Thursday we record the online service. On Friday I add other elements, including a gathering song, the first reading, the sermon, and sometimes the psalm. I also create



a separate bulletin for the drive-in service that Kathy proofs and then prints also on Friday. On Saturday I weave the various parts of the online service together using iMovie, add titles, transitions and text, and post the service to our YouTube channel, with a link to the online service bulletin. The entire worship process requires 25-30 hours. On Sunday morning Carol, Larry and I arrive around 8 a.m. and get the PA system and keyboard set up and, when Wendy and Sandi arrive, go over the music. Gary and Judy come early to prepare the communion kits.

### **Administration**

I work throughout the week with Kathy Schluter, Owen Raisbeck, Larry Legro, Linda Baldrige, Mary Grossman, the Council, and our task forces on issues concerning church finances, publicity, property, and insurance. With Second Harvest Mobile Food Bank on-site coordinator Denny Woelffer, I stay in touch with SHMFB staff and file monthly reports. Around the third week of every month Kathy and I begin work on the newsletter, which she prints and assembles with much-needed helping hands in the office. I regularly update the web site and maintain our YouTube channel and Facebook page.

### **Christian Education**

I lead or participate in Bible studies and book group discussions, now held by Zoom. With Pastor Tim Knipfer of Bristol Lutheran Church, I teach Confirmation each Wednesday from 5-6 p.m. With one student from Bristol, our class numbers 10 this year. I also enjoyed helping with our outdoor Sunday School unit this Fall.

### **Pastoral care**

I try to stay in touch with members as much as possible by phone, email or text message. Home visits are not possible at present. It will be good for all when those can resume.

### **Life transitions**

I am available for weddings, funerals and baptisms, and meet with families in preparation for those. All funerals since March took place as gravesite ceremonies. We had one indoor wedding (with fewer than 10 present) and one outdoor wedding in our parking lot (with 25 present); other weddings and baptisms that had been scheduled for 2020 were postponed.

### **B. The Secretary**

Kathy Schluter manages all the heavy lifting of our printing needs and continues to be an invaluable contributor to our bulletins and newsletters, frequently catching errors and adding crucial information. Kathy also brings and sorts through the mail and church email, keeps the master membership list up to date, fields phone calls and voicemails, keeps track of attendance at the drive-in and online services, and is always willing to pop over to the church whenever someone needs something. The work of printing and collating the newsletter is especially laborious with our old copier. We hope to make Kathy's life less stressful in 2021 with a new machine that is reliable and performs some of the more tedious tasks.

### **C. The Musicians**

We are truly blessed to have Carol Johnson-Hohol as our organist. Carol brings to her work not only fine musicianship, a wealth of experience, and an upbeat approach, but a willingness to try out whatever Pastor Raabe throws at her even at the last minute. One of my favorite things is when Carol takes an unfamiliar hymn, plays it through for the first time perfectly and at just the right tempo, and then innocently says, "Is that how it should go?" The answer is always: "Yes!" Carol has also been a good sport to allow me to sit down at the keyboard on occasion and continues to enjoy discovering some of the nice sounds the electronic keyboard is able to make. We are grateful to Carol and Larry for their gift of the organ and

speaker maintenance this past year, which is keeping our sanctuary organ in excellent condition. We are blessed that Sandi Brewer and Wendy Franke sing whenever they can.

**MINISTRY OF WORSHIP**

We exceeded our budget slightly for worship supplies this year because of the necessity of purchasing a regular supply of the individual communion kits. We also purchased packets of “ashes to go” for Ash Wednesday.

Ink for our printers and copier, along with postage, consumes much of the Office Supply budget. With weekly bulletins and the monthly newsletter we estimate we print over 3,000 pages each month. We continue to subscribe to The Word in Season devotional booklets, and we now provide colorful offering envelopes to all active members imprinted with scripture passages. We continue to pay a monthly fee to Vanco for Simply Giving, our electronic giving program, and heartily encourage you to sign up for that if you have not already (you can do that through our web site if you’d like the charge to go onto your credit card). We also now have GIVE BY TEXT using your smartphone. Simply type a number in the message line, text it to our designated number, 608-709-0483, and it goes directly into our General Fund.

Other annual subscriptions include Sundays & Seasons, our two copyright licenses (which now include podcasting/streaming), our web hosting company, and our children’s Sunday School curriculum.

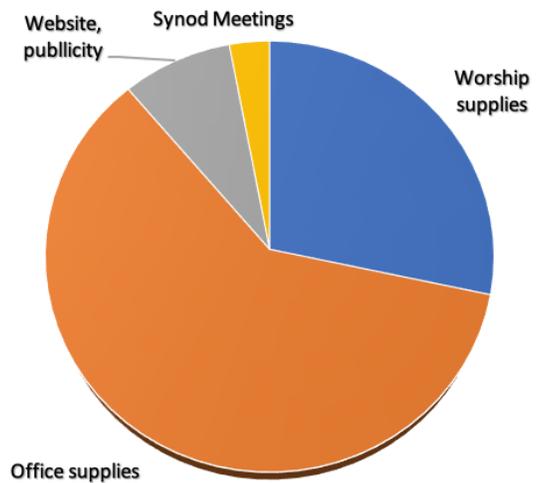
**BUILDINGS SUPPORT in 2020**

We were delighted to officially take on Larry Legro as our custodian this year. Of course, the small amount we offer does not begin to compensate him for the vast number of hours and materials he invests in Holy Trinity on a regular basis. If something needs doing, we can always count on Larry! He and John Ray also collaborated this year on parsonage upkeep and repairs, while John was also responsible for giving the church a much-needed face lift by painting the exterior façade and sharp-looking trim. Among other work, John also fixed up our ancient dishwasher with parts he “just happened to have lying around” so that it is nearly as good as new.

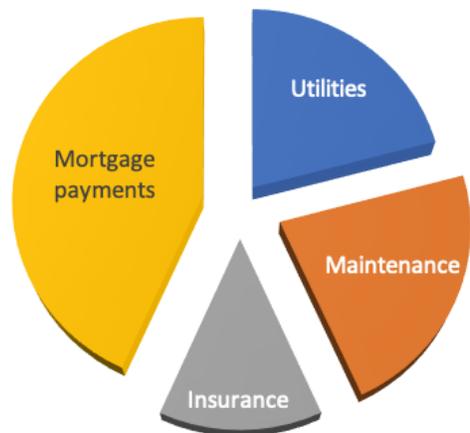
A big change for us in 2020 was the shift in our church insurance policy to Church Mutual. We felt Church Mutual placed a more accurate value on our buildings and have been very pleased with the support we’ve received since, which has included a free sensor to detect water leaks. This past year we finally turned the corner with our solar panels and began to make a profit on the investment. Five months passed in 2020 without any charge for church electricity, including credits that were applied to succeeding bills. We are proud to be a leader in our area in the cultivation of alternative energy sources.

Submitted by Pastor Raabe

**MINISTRY OF WORSHIP**



**BUILDINGS SUPPORT**



## PROPERTY REPORT March 2020-January 2021

**PARSONAGE** (sold 12/23/2020): Water heater replaced thanks to Dave Kiersten. Very large dead ash tree cut down and removed. An evergreen tree was uprooted in the wind and fell on the dead ash tree before it was taken down. Both were taken down and the debris removed. Most of the outside repairs (painting, windows, lighting, garage trim boards, and masonry work) were done by John Ray and Larry Legro. Owen and Darlene Raisbeck helped with painting, mowing, removing snow on drive and walks and weeding. Larry provided mulch and spread it the past summer. A new steel door was installed by John Ray and Larry just prior to the sale. Gutters were cleaned by Wendy Franke, and the interior was spruced up with cleaning, light fixture replacements in both bathrooms, caulking, and some minor plumbing repairs in the baths. Larry and Pastor painted the basement floor. Some furniture and goods from parsonage were put on Facebook Marketplace by Stephanie Woodley and raised \$900. Many hands helped with parsonage prep: Linda Baldrige, Stephanie, Owen, Darlene, John, Larry, Pastor Raabe, Wendy, Carol Woldt, and Gary and Judy Waalkens. If I forgot anyone, it is not intentional.

**CHURCH and GARAGE:** Church under main stained glass window: Repaired outside, rotten siding below main altar, with help from Dave Kiersten who was very vital in speeding up this project. Primer was placed on the siding and overcoat of exterior paint was done later in the summer. A major project. John Ray and Owen painted the narthex and John worked on the exterior, adding fresh paint and gray trim. Dave K. replaced the east side air conditioning compressor, a major project, and he replaced most, if not all, the thermostats in the church. FYI: there are 5 furnaces and 5 central air conditioners in our church each with 2 air filters that Larry replaces at 6 mos. (total of 10 every 6 mos.).

Shelves were added by Larry in the dishwasher area and in the NW furnace room for added storage, which is at a premium these days. Larry found two very executive style, 8 and 10 foot, tables for free from another ELCA church, and trailered to Holy Trinity- our Library and Pastor's office is their new home. Owen helped bring them in as they are extremely heavy. Church also had mulch purchased and spread by Larry with weeding and bushes trimmed and disposal of the brush. A new evergreen was planted out front to replace one that died. The dead tree was cut down, debris was also removed by Larry and his trailer. Our signposts were replaced with treated wooden ones and cemented into soil with cleats and hooks added for banners we post there. Many old outlets were replaced with many more to replace as we go, inside the church. All outside lighting on church (near every door) had burned out bulbs. Unless one gets there at night to see these, this is overlooked. Due to our Fall spaghetti drive-through, it was noticed, as we needed lighting. Larry provided 10-year guaranteed LED bulbs and installed them at all 6 outside doors. Parking lot seal and fill project was a success. Richard Tooley organized it. Larry worked on killing weeds in the major cracks all summer which helped as the company burns them off. Made a sandwich board to promote the fundraiser. Larry had earlier used our line painting cart (in garage) to at least restore the faded lines onto the lot. He still has over a dozen cans of special yellow paint for restoring parking lines if anyone has a need for any. Rolls of old leftover carpets and cans of paint and stain are slowly being disposed of as we progress. Carpet has to be cut up in smaller rolls, and paints have to be dried in order to put into the normal trash. Five rolls of carpet have been disposed. And some located in the NW furnace room were covering a wet spot and much mold from a slight leak in our water pipe leading to the outside water faucet. The mold has been treated, and stashing carpet in these areas with damp potentials is not a good thing to do. This is a prime reason we should NOT store useless things in our furnace rooms. Fire hazards too.

Thank you. Submitted by Larry Legro, 1-10-2021



## WELCA Report for 2020

You have heard this phrase, “God’s Work, Our Hands”. At Holy Trinity, WELCA members (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) honor that commitment to do God’s work as we support each other, our congregation and our community. In 2020, our WELCA members offered support to Holy Trinity in these ways:

- Planned and served funeral lunch for the Bud Herman funeral in early March
- Participation by some WELCA members in the “phone tree” method of calling our Holy Trinity members to give them encouragement and assurance that their friends at Holy Trinity are concerned for their well being during this time of the pandemic.
- Contribution of time and energy by many of our members to Holy Trinity’s Annual Garage and Bake Sale and the Martin Luther Birthday Drive-In Spaghetti Dinner.
- Helped make and fill backpacks for schoolchildren.
- In September, our quilters constructed and boxed 63 quilts that were taken to a waiting rail car Madison. The quilts will be distributed to those in need around the world by LWR.
- Contributed money to the Memorial Fund when members of our congregation passed away.
- In October, WELCA honored Deb Percy with the 2020 Life Service Award. For several years, Deb has devoted countless hours of time and effort to making our annual garage and bake sale a success.
- With help from Laurie Weisensel, helped sew 16 backpacks that were also sent with the quilts to LWR.
- A small crew of helpers worked with Larry Legro to decorate our church for Christmas. They returned after Christmas to remove and store the decorations.
- Our members also baked and packaged cookies that were given out at our Christmas Eve worship services to all who attended.

Because of the pandemic, our usual schedule of monthly meetings that offer fellowship, delicious food, Bible study and business meeting was changed. Some meetings were cancelled and, while following safety guidelines, some meetings were held indoors or outdoors at member homes and in the fellowship hall. Our WELCA activities were limited in 2020, but we tried to stay in communication with each other and with the congregation, encouraged especially by cards and remembrances from our Sunshine chairman. In 2021, we will be re-energized and ready to continue God’s work.

### Current Officers

Marilyn Osterlie, President

Linda Baldrige, Secretary

Darlene Raisbeck, Treasurer

Jean Juedes, Sunshine

Marilyn Osterlie & Linda Baldrige, Kitchen Chairpersons

Contact Marilyn Osterlie, 655-4930, if you would like to know more about WELCA or pick up our program booklet from the church literature rack near the office door.

## Maintaining the Church—a fresh appeal

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Now that we have sold our Parsonage, your Council has been hearing some disturbing talk. One of the more disturbing is that we will no longer need to give to a Building Fund. Nothing could be further from the truth.

What we used to require for our mortgage payment will still be needed for our reduced mortgage, maintenance and upkeep on our Church Home as well as increased pastoral costs due to selling the parsonage.

Our mortgage payment was \$3587.00 per month. Without a parsonage, we are obligated to pay our Pastor a \$2000.00 housing allowance per month. This is from the Synod and is not negotiable. This leaves us with \$1587.00. Your Council is proposing to take \$587.00 and transfer that to a new Maintenance Fund. This leaves us \$1000.00 to put toward our greatly reduced mortgage. We could pay off our reduced mortgage early.

This Maintenance Fund can then be used to cover the coming costs of repairing or replacing our Church infrastructure without needing an emergency fundraiser. Your Council would like to avoid these crisis management situations.

I find it amazing that it has been almost 20 years since we walked together from our old Home to our new Home. As we have aged these 20 years, so has our church building. Our HVAC equipment will not last forever. Just this year, one of our HVAC units died and required a new compressor. That was \$3000. Imagine if your home furnace died tomorrow. Are you prepared to cover the cost of a new furnace? Do you have an emergency fund? Our church home has five HVAC units. They are all the same age. We can also expect to replace office equipment (computers, printers, copiers, phone) We have a water heater which is as old as our building and has lasted much longer than it's expected life of 8-10 years. These are all items that can be covered without a fundraiser if we have a healthy Maintenance Fund.

Prudent planning will require us to be looking into a roof replacement sometime before 2035. A new roof could easily cost \$65 - \$75,000. We will need a fund-raising effort for that.

While we had a remarkably successful fund raiser to reseal our parking lot, it was just a band aid. The entire parking lot should be resurfaced/replaced in 5 to 8 years at a guesstimated cost of \$25,000 - \$35,000. This will also require a fund-raising effort. Our extraordinarily successful solar panels are also getting to the end of their life cycle. Another fund raiser.

Good stewardship is much more than an annual fund drive. Good stewardship is planning for the maintenance needs of our church home in the future. Your church is counting on your continued support. Please maintain your giving to our building effort. We have good use for your continuing generous support. Thank you,

Richard Tooley

Outgoing Council Vice President and Chair of the Parking Lot Fundraiser and Maintenance Fund projects

## Marshall – Waterloo Food Pantry Summary for 2020

The COVID-19 virus presented us with a challenge: How to serve our patrons and keep everyone safe. Our board put together a plan that accomplished that. With food occasionally left over from Second Harvest which is taken to the Food Pantry, we had prepackaged food to give out and we prebagged some food and we had the people point out what they wanted and we bagged that up for them. Face masks were worn by everyone. Everyone was satisfied because they got the food they needed, and we kept everyone safe.

We would like to thank all the volunteers from Holy Trinity who helped during our assigned months to man the pantry. We look forward to working with you and new volunteers in June of 2021 when we next work at the pantry. Thank you all and God bless you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary and Judy Waalkens, contact persons for Holy Trinity



### Recent quotes of note

*"It's a good day when the grape juice isn't frozen." Pastor Raabe, January 24, 2021*

*"We don't really notice the cold anymore, do we?" Denny Woelffer, after the coldest Second Harvest so far (12 degrees), January 22, 2021*

*"We are now taking canine attendance." Pastor Raabe, January 10, 2021*

*"It was magical to see all the candles flicker on in the cars" [as 'Silent Night' began], Sandi Brewer, Christmas Eve, 2020 (temperature: 7 degrees)*

*"This is so nice, why haven't we been doing it every summer?" Mary Swenson, after the outdoor service, August 23, 2020 (temperature: 75 degrees)*

*Holy Trinity is a member of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin,  
one of 65 synods in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
To learn more or sign up for the Synod's weekly newsletter, What Matters, visit [scsw-elca.org](http://scsw-elca.org).*

