



Christ Lutheran Church  
**2020 Annual Report**  
of the Congregation



# Agenda

## 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting Christ Lutheran Church January 24, 2021

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#### Call to Order

#### Welcome & Opening Prayer

#### Council Introductions (with term ending dates):

*Guy Olsen, President — Jan 2021*

*Vic Tomono, Vice President — Jan 2021*

**Kylie Whitehead, Secretary — Jan 2022**

*Janeen Whitehead, Treasurer — Jan 2021*

*Pam Wilson, Member at Large #1 — Jan 2021*

**Dave Lindgren, Member at Large #2 — Jan 2022**

#### Business:

##### 1. Approve 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

##### 2. Team/Project Reports

##### 3. Review and vote on 2021 Proposed Budget

#### Christ Lutheran Church in Transition

#### Elections:

Council: 3 members for 2-year terms

Treasurer: 1 member for 1-year term

Nominating Committee: 4 members for 1-year terms (up to 2 members may be outgoing Council members)

#### Other Business

#### Service Acknowledgments

#### Adjournment & Closing Prayer

# Pastor's Report

The words of the Apostle Paul in letters to the Philippians come to mind as I sit to write this note to you all:

*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you.*

I do indeed give thanks for each and every one of you and for Christ Lutheran Church, especially as we wrap up 2020 - a year that I don't think any of us, in our wildest imaginations, could have anticipated, and a year that God in Christ Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit has remained faithful in love and care toward us and for us and the world.

In March, when it was clear the global Covid-19 pandemic was a threat to the health and lives of people, Christ Lutheran Church closed its building and suspended all in-person activities, including worship. Meeting online through worship videos and Zoom became the only way for CLC - like most churches - to connect. This continued through September when the decision to open the CLC building on a limited basis was made. Some office hours were kept during the week when possible, with all safety measures in place, and worship on Zoom was led from the sanctuary. Pastoral care was held in the parking lot, when the weather was not too bad. CLC continued to host Segero Mission Church and enjoy a supportive relationship with this congregation. CLC also continued to support Tammy Lam and Laura Olsen in their participation in the PSALM program and discernment toward becoming leaders in the ELCA. A spirit filled and joyful joint worship service with Calvary Lutheran Church was held on Reformation, Oct. 25, to celebrate confirmation of two CLC young people. Throughout all of these things, I have observed how you have continued to love each other and to love the world.

*Again, I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you.*

As we move into 2021, it looks as if things will remain much as they were, until the Covid-19 vaccine becomes widely available. While we will remain online for most of our interactions as a community, I invite you all to consider how we enrich and enliven these times when we can be together. And also how we can find new and impactful ways to live out our freedom given by God's grace.

*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you.*

Peace,  
Pastor Marietta

# President's Report

Dear Members of Christ Lutheran Church,

It's been a very eventful year! This time last year, none of us could have foretold the unfolding of the COVID-19 crisis or envisioned the changes we would all make in response, as individuals, as a church and as a society. I'm proud of the way our members and staff have rolled with the punches, risen to every occasion and remained strong in faithful discipleship.

We began the year by welcoming Interim Pastor Mark Peterson. Pastor Mark brought a great deal of experience as an Interim pastor, and did a lot of the "reviewing the nuts-and-bolts" work that is part of the transition process. Pastor Mark provided a steady and cautious hand at the tiller as we navigated uncertain waters.

A vital part of this interim work was when Pastor Mark, Vic Tomono and Dave Lindgren reviewed and amended the CLC Constitution, to bring it in line with the current ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations.

In early spring, in accordance with synod guidance and state restrictions, we began worshipping "remotely" via Zoom. We had to devise and become accustomed to new ways of staying in touch, of reaching out to our fellow parishioners and friends. While this has been a challenge, in many ways it has reinforced the bonds of fellowship that we share and cherish.

In August, in a transition to better match our resources with our needs, and in cooperation with the SW Synod, we bid farewell to Pastor Mark. We are grateful for his work here.

We also saw, with regret, the retirement of longtime Nursery Attendant Diane Putts, who faithfully watched over Christ Lutheran's children for years.

In early September we welcomed Interim Pastor Marietta Nelson-Bittle. We are blessed with her leadership, enthusiasm and perspective, and I feel we are in good hands as we forge boldly into the future.

*Continued on next page*

## *President's Report - continued*

Among the things we must tackle in 2021 are:

- When and how to re-open the church and resume in-person (or hybrid) Sunday services
- Resuming outbound ministries and service to the community
- The transition and call process

Our transition process, like that of most other SW Synod churches in transition, was affected by the COVID measures, the uncertainty of the duration and murkiness of the immediate future, as well as the logistics of interviewing. It has taken a little time to work out the new paradigm and processes. We are proceeding to complete a new Ministry Site Profile, the first step in defining an updated clear vision of Christ Lutheran Church and discerning our path forward; as a ministry, as a church and as a congregation. When the Transition Team contacts you for your opinion or vision, please share it with Luther-like boldness!

We had a successful Stewardship campaign this year, and I thank Tom Hagen, Vic Tomomo and Dave Lindgren for their work this year in helping foster a "Culture of Generosity" that our members responded to with determination. We truly are, as "someone" has called us, "The Little Church That Can."

It has been my honor and sincere pleasure to serve with a dedicated, talented and patient church council. I thank each of them for their service, advice, attention to detail, and good cheer. I feel blessed to know them and to know that they represent us.

As ever, the vitality of Christ Lutheran is due to the unflagging dedication and vigor of our volunteers. As I tried to organize a list of servants and their contributions, I realized that a complete list would literally be our directory! Our members: lead bible study and prayer sessions, clean gutters, organize finances, send birthday cards, serve on council, sing in choir, toil in our gardens, mow our lawns, water our plants, participate in prison ministry, organize monthly breakfasts, review documents, make phone calls, prepare mailings, select hymns, contribute advice, offer counsel, check the doors, get the mail, mail the bills, teach computer skills, learn computer skills, tithe, lend an ear, help the poor, feed the hungry, care for the sick, and proclaim faith in the Lord.

We are disciples of Christ, sent to love and serve the Lord.

Yours in Christ,  
Guy Olsen

# 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

Christ Lutheran Church

January 26, 2020

- Call to Order – 11:06a
- Welcome & Opening Prayer
- Council Introductions – unanimously passed.
- Business
  1. Approve minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting
  2. Team Reports – reviewed by:
    - Property (Guy Olsen) - see report.
    - Finance (Tom Hagen) – see report. (explanatory discussions: New Comcast cable/internet service; pastor salary and benefit expense, vis-à-vis interim pastor and called pastor.)
  3. Project Imagine Update – (Bill Wells)
  4. Review and vote on 2020 Proposed Budget – passed unanimously.
- Christ Lutheran Church in Transition – (Pastor Mark Peterson) discussion: ELCA guidelines and Reconciling Ministry work.
- Elections
  1. Council: 2 members nominated for 2-year terms:
    - Kylie Whitehead
    - David LindgrenNo other candidates, no other elected by acclamation.
  2. Treasurer: 1 member for 1-year term
    - Janeen Whitehead (re-elected, by acclamation)
  3. Nominating Committee: 4 members for 1-year term
    - Member – Tom Hagen
    - Member – Kari Stone
    - Member – Coleen Adams
    - Member – Jim ShortAll 4 volunteer/candidates elected unanimously.
- Other Business
- Vic Tomono transitioning to Finance Committee Chair, relieving Tom Hagen.

disposition of committees.
- Service Acknowledgments – Painting Crew, Tom Hagen, Youth (represented by Matt Wells), Laurie Heinz, Janeen Whitehead.
- Adjournment & Closing prayer – 12:23p.

# Finance Committee

The Finance Committee worked diligently to plan and manage a number of financial activities this year in support of the Christ Lutheran congregation and council. We celebrate another year of our ministries and stewardship with these highlights of our 2020 efforts:

- Successful presentation and passage of the 2020 budget at last year's annual meeting, a budget totaling \$162,812, a budget that was heavily modified due to the onset of the pandemic in the second month of our Fiscal Year.
- COVID-19 was the catalyst for a number of safety and austerity actions that responded to a new operating environment while helping to ensure the sustainability of our congregation and church facilities. Some of those actions included:
  - o Suspending almost all building access, thus reducing building usage income
  - o Requesting and receiving mortgage relief for three months
  - o Reducing waste removal expenses
  - o Freezing committee budgets
  - o Deferring some building maintenance
  - o Applying for a Paycheck Protection Program Loan under CARES Act provisions
  - o Tapping our Operating Reserve and Capital Improvement Funds to temporarily address budget shortfalls, funds which have recently been fully recapitalized
  - o Working with Council and the SW Washington Synod to dramatically reduce Interim Pastor expense, our most significant budget pressure
  - o Laying off Diane Putts, our faithful servant and nursery attendant
  - o Reaffirming our commitment to our staff by maintaining budgeted payroll
- Developed and signed contracts with our tenant activities, most of which proved problematic due to restricted building access.
- Planned and executed the annual Fall stewardship campaign, "Creating a Culture of Generosity," yielding pledges of \$104,230 of our proposed \$122,777 budget for 2021. This represents a 2.5% increase from our 2020 Statements of Intent.
- Importantly, normal audits by the Audit Committee were suspended, however concerted due diligence was performed as noted above to aggressively manage our income and expenses and to ensure sustained good stewardship for our church funds.

Because of our solid financial start to 2020, due in large measure to cost avoidance, efficient operations, and your generous stewardship, we have successfully completed another fiscal year within our heavily modified budget. The combined impacts of the pandemic, increasing costs, our congregation demographics, and our transition and call process will no doubt challenge our financial well-being again in 2021. However, I remain confident that with God's help, we will continue to find a way to meet that challenge through your continued generosity and vigilant stewardship of our resources as the new year unfolds.

Finally, I'd like to personally acknowledge the amazing job Janeen Whitehead continues to do as our Treasurer, the equally superb job John Wilson has done as Financial Secretary, and the terrific support we've received from Council and our Pastors this year. Thank you for your selfless service to our congregation! We celebrate with all of you another successful, albeit unique, year of serving our faith community both here at Christ Lutheran and beyond our walls!

Respectfully submitted,

**Tom Hagen**

Tom Hagen

Finance Team Chairman

# Worship & Music Report

Though the phrase "I'll get by with a little help from my friends" is from a Joe Cocker song and not a hymn, it is a good summary of this year's worship and music activities. Like everything, it has taken a lot of adjusting on the fly and being flexible to find work-arounds. When we first went into lock-downs last March it was a tough adjustment since choir, lent, and Easter music had all been chosen and were in progress. Like many churches, we switched to an online video format which included some hymns and special music within a pared down format of the service that members could watch together either on Facebook or YouTube. Luckily doing music from home included my husband and fellow musician Bryan Fiehler as a partner for duets, hymns, and sound engineering. (Thanks friend!) We also tried to keep the community music-making alive by having choir members make recordings to be pasted together into special music for the services. (Thanks choir friends!) One example of this was the "Hosanna, hosanna" choir song that we engineered and Laura Olsen created a beautiful video for on Palm Sunday. (Thanks artist friend!) Though it was a big undertaking, I also asked the choir to contribute videos of themselves singing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" for Easter, which was fun. One Easter video even featured some local chickens in it somehow. (Thanks feathered friends!)

By the time May rolled around, enough people were comfortable with using Zoom that we were able to move to a more interactive method of worship. We discovered the ins and outs of sharing sound, setting things up for pre-recorded accompaniment tracks, and upgraded our home mic, headphones, and sound system. When fall came, it meant that we needed to find a way to get the choir going again. Thankfully Bryan discovered and mastered Jamulus, which is an audio-only program that lets musicians rehearse in real time. This has been a wonderful tool that made singing together-though-apart possible. We have used it to make choir audio recordings as well as adding the video of the choir rehearsing on Zoom. Then we were able to use another program that allowed us to funnel the choir's Jamulus sound into the Zoom worship service, so we got live choir singing going! (Thanks software developer friends!) We used all these tools and went all-out to create a very interactive Christmas Eve service with lots of music as usual. Mary Hefty and Ann Jaeger even sang in a video project for one of the choir songs. (Thanks brave soloist friends!)

As you can see, the overwhelming take-away from this year's craziness is thankfulness and friends that see you through. God has blessed our little church with an abundance of both.

Your friend in Christ,  
Katie Stevenson

# The Zoom Project

The Covid Conundrum for Church in 2020 - *How do we worship together when we can't be together?*

Early in Lent 2020, the Covid-19 lockdowns lead us to new ways to worship. We shifted to recording parts of worship during the week. The liturgy was assembled in a video, uploaded to YouTube and linked to our website to be viewed on Sunday mornings.

Coordinating the participants posed immediate challenges. People were both socially-distanced and required to record worship days in advance, using whatever technological resources they had or could access safely at church. The pieces were edited together - turning what was normally an organic way of people participating at the necessary time of worship, into scheduling recording so as to minimize contact with others, managing numerous files, hard drive space, uploading and processing.

For the participants, the experience was detached from worship. And the end product, although nicely assembled, lacked the interaction that is fundamental to worship.

After Easter, I proposed transitioning to an experiential format, either livestream or Zoom. Either would streamline production and both would produce a video that could also be watched again or at a later time.

The determining factor for Zoom was that anyone who had Internet access could participate from home. That was a great relief, especially in the early stages of lockdown when few of us ventured very far, if we went out at all.

The unexpected benefit of video conferencing was the opportunity for two-way participation. After a relatively short learning curve - about two weeks - we found ourselves seeing and interacting with each other in real time. We felt less isolated. It was a joy to see our family and friends, even with hundreds of miles between us. It was a relief to know that all was well, and if it wasn't, we had each other to get through it as always. Yes, and we worshipped too!

As our Sunday services evolved - integrating screen sharing, pre-recorded videos and even live choir vocals - we also branched out into Zoom Bible studies, council and staff meetings, and even the Monthly Men's Breakfast. Looking ahead, in certainty that in-person worship will resume, video conferencing (or live streaming) may continue to be an extension of our regular worship services.

In the midst of this unprecedented challenge, I thank God for the vitality and responsiveness of this congregation, and for the willingness to learn and grow and experience grace in new and exciting ways! May God continue to lead us in helping more people discover life in Christ, for the good, wholeness and healing of the world.

Blessings,  
Laura Olsen, CLC Office Manager

## 2020 Church Leaders

Council President: Guy Olsen

Council Vice President: Vic Tomono

Treasurer: Janeen Whitehead

Council Secretary: Kylie Whitehead

Council members: Guy Olsen, Vic Tomono,  
Janeen Whitehead, Kylie Whitehead, Pam  
Wilson, Dave Lindgren

Capital Improvements: Tom Hagen

Altar Guild Chair: Guy Olsen

Audit Team: Tom Hagen, Trudy Sorensen,  
Janeen Whitehead

Finance Team Chair: Tom Hagen

Nominating Team: Tom Hagen, Kari Stone,  
Coleen Adams, Jim Short

Worship & Music Team Chair: Katie Stevenson

## 2020 Staff

Pastor: Rev. Mark Peterson /  
Pr. Marietta Nelson-Bittle

Office Manager: Laura Olsen

Director of Music: Katie Stevenson

Treasurer: Janeen Whitehead

Custodian: Esmeralda Lopez

Nursery Attendant: Diane Putts



## Christ Lutheran Church

Disciples of Christ sent to love and serve the Lord

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