

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020



Lutheran Church of the  
**Good Shepherd**



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





## A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

Dear friends in Christ,

This year has been a challenging one! The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the church and society. We have had to shift the ways we engage in ministry from a focus on in-person worship and meetings to livestream worship, virtual meetings and gatherings in the parking lot. We have had to shift to teaching children at home and working from home. We have not been able to travel to see friends or relatives or to celebrate life events. This has also been a time to address economic and social justice issues, to shift our thinking and our way of life.

In times such as this, our baptism in Christ makes a difference and makes us different. Like Christians before us, we recall that God is faithful to God's promises and God's people. We see that God enables us to connect with one another even when we are separated. Shifts in the world invite us to be innovative in how we do God's work and reach out to all ages in making disciples. We see that God is at work not only in our buildings but beyond them as well. We have found new ways to serve our neighbors and reach those in need.

As we experience this time of uncertainty, we sense something new emerging. In many places there are new strategies and renewed energy for ministry, often generated by emerging leaders. We have developed a framework to build on, and now is the time to engage in hard work together. As you do in your congregation, we want our collaborative efforts to be both faithfully thoughtful and sustainable. We want to build up the body of Christ today and for the future.

Looking across the church, I am grateful for your generous giving of time, talents and resources. Yes, God does continue to bless us! God will provide both relief from life's struggles and hope for a stronger church, God's church. We do not need to know how the future will unfold. As members in the body of Christ, we need only trust that God is with us and will provide.

Building up the body of Christ together,

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

*"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." —Ephesians 4:11-16*



One church.  
Two locations.

Moorhead  
Downtown Fargo

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## Minutes: Annual Congregational Meeting

January 26, 2020 | 9:30 am

**Call to Order:** Having established a quorum, President Katherine Halvorson called the meeting to order at 9:39 am.

**Opening Devotions** were given by Pastor Mary Suomala Folkerds.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Kevin Stenstrom made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Jim Lizakowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Approval of the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting on January 27, 2019:** Paul Eidbo made a motion that was seconded by Emily Gess to approve the minutes of the last annual meeting held January 27, 2019. Minutes were approved.

**Approval of Special Congregational Meeting Minutes:** Colleen Hyde made a motion, seconded by Joan Engeseth, to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

- + Special Congregational Meeting held April 14, 2019, to elect a Call Committee
- + Special Congregational Meeting held December 8, 2019, to issue a contract to Rev. Daniel Forsberg to be Associate Pastor of Congregational Care.

Special meeting minutes were approved.

**Report of the President:** President Katherine Halvorson made brief comments reflecting on all we have to be thankful for in the past year. Katherine called for celebration of the staff changes and additions, use of the new Education Wing, our vibrant and growing ministry, new grant money for our mission work at Sanctuary, and the generosity of our members.

**Reports of the Pastors:** Pastor Mary expressed her excitement about our ministry and mission, and the service opportunities available for all ages in and outside our church building that are revealing God. She called our work "strength training for our faith". Pastor Mary specifically mentioned that having a full staff will allow for strengthening of our second site at Sanctuary Events Center and our visitation ministry. She closed her comments saying, "We are about Jesus and relationships here."

**2019 Financial Report:** Joe Braun highlighted some year-end details. We ended 2019 with an \$8,672 surplus, envelope giving decreased from 2018 (656 households gave), and the staff expenses came in under budget again.

**Presentation and Adoption of the 2020 Budget:** Joe Braun presented the 2020 Budget. The proposed budget is a 9% increase over the 2019 budget (after the Ministry Initiative Fund). Joe anticipates a need for an extra push for giving in 2021 due to the loss of the Ministry Initiative Fund and a full staff. Emily Gess made a motion to adopt the 2020 Budget. The motion was seconded by Jerry Bjelde. The 2020 Budget was approved.

**Elections:** Joan Engeseth, President-elect, presented a ballot of nominees for Council and Non-Council positions. Clarifying point: Joe Summers previously agreed to serve a 3-year term on the Trust Fund Committee, but his name was inadvertently left off the ballot. Hearing no other additions to the ballot, President Katherine Halvorson called for the vote. The ballots were collected. The ballot as presented was approved.

### Council Officers and Committee Members for 2020:

- + Joan Engeseth, President
- + Matthew Hallaway, Vice President
- + Katherine Halvorson, Past President
- + Joe Braun, Treasurer
- + Lisa Sjoberg, Secretary
- + Mark Rice, Family Life
- + Angie Hegg, Family Life
- + Denette Narum, Spiritual Growth
- + Frank Svezia, Outreach
- + Jerry Bjelde, Administration

**New Business:** Recognition of Outgoing Council Members: Pastor Mary recognized outgoing Council members: Past President, Pete Seljevold; Family Life Council representative, Emily Gess; and Secretary, Sharon Nelson.

**Adjournment:** There being no other business, Joe Halvorson made a motion, seconded by Nicole Swanson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting closed at 10:17 am with the Lord's Prayer.

**Respectfully Submitted:** Sharon Nelson, Council Secretary



Welcome, Pastor Dan!

## Minutes: Special Congregational Meeting

November 22, 2020 | 9:30 am

**Meeting was Called to Order** at 9:30 a.m. by President Joan Engeseth.

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Mary shared this prayer, "O Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

**Quorum confirmed.**

**A motion was made by Jerry Bjelde and seconded by Pete Seljevold to amend our constitution to include:**

C10.08. This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

**Motion made by Mike Drewelow and seconded by Joe Braun to adjourn at 9:38 a.m.**

The **meeting closed** at 9:38 am with the Lord's Prayer.

The **votes were counted** after everyone turned in their ballot as they left the parking lot.

- + 156 yes votes
- + 3 no votes.

**Motion carried.**

**Respectfully submitted:** Deacon Julie Wilson, Staff





## gsStaff Members & Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 10:00 am–2:00 pm

The church building is open and phones are answered during these times.



**Pastor Mary Suomala Folkerds**  
*Lead Pastor*

[PastorMary@ktgs.org](mailto:PastorMary@ktgs.org)



**Pastor Taylor Wilson**  
*Pastor of Mission Development*

[PastorTaylor@ktgs.org](mailto:PastorTaylor@ktgs.org)



**Pastor Dan Forsberg**  
*Pastor of Congregational Care*

[PastorDan@ktgs.org](mailto:PastorDan@ktgs.org)



**Deacon Julie Wilson**  
*Children & Family Ministry Director*

[Julie@ktgs.org](mailto:Julie@ktgs.org)



**Diana Wright**  
*Youth Director*

[Diana@ktgs.org](mailto:Diana@ktgs.org)



**Jon Dahl**  
*Worship Arts Director*

[Jon@ktgs.org](mailto:Jon@ktgs.org)



**Linda Bartholome**  
*Congregation Engagement Director*

[Linda@ktgs.org](mailto:Linda@ktgs.org)



**Karen Skarpness**  
*Data Systems & Finance Manager*

[Karen@ktgs.org](mailto:Karen@ktgs.org)



**Stephanie Maier**  
*Marketing Administrator*

[Stephanie@ktgs.org](mailto:Stephanie@ktgs.org)





## gsPresident's Report: Joan Engeseth

2020 Council President



Dear Friends,  
I think the word that best describes our year at The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd is "pivot." To pivot is to turn around a center point. It is a fixed point supporting something that turns or balances, and that is just what we have been doing for most of 2020. What we have done is found new ways to be the Church for our members and our community. We have found new ways to be the Church because that is fundamental to living out our mission, "To Gather, Grow, and Go so that all may know the Good Shepherd."

We have been constantly turning and re-balancing to support the mandates of the State of Minnesota and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) around COVID-19. And through it all we have never stopped being the Church; we have never closed! Has it been easy? Absolutely not! It has only been possible through the hard work of our staff. They have had to re-imagine their jobs to continue the mission of Good Shepherd. I do not have enough words to thank our staff for the exemplary work they have accomplished this year. We are blessed to have the staff in place that we have.

Under the direction of our lead pastor, Rev. Mary Suomala Folkerds, we have thrived! As I recognize her for her strong leadership this year, she is quick to give the credit to the rest of the staff. I can assure you that they have not used this time of shutdowns and closures to rest, but have instead collaborated to provide a full spectrum of worship opportunities for all of us and others in our community, across the United States, and even in 44 other countries.

Below is a snapshot of how we rose to the challenge of "Being the Church" in 2020 in meaningful ways. We could not have done all this without your faithful giving. Thank you for entrusting us with your offerings. As you can see, we have used it in many ways to continue to gather, grow, and go for God's kingdom.

In conclusion, it has been a privilege to serve as the Council President this past year. I have gained a deeper understanding and appreciation for what our dedicated Pastors and staff have done this year to ensure we continue to be the church for our members, our communities, and beyond. I am proud to be a member of The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

Thank you to my fellow Council members for the flexibility and commitment you showed when faced with decisions that needed prompt attention. I appreciate your support this year.

Finally, thank you to all of the members of this congregation who have been so thoughtful, patient and understanding during these difficult times. We will gather again, together, inside our beautiful facility when it is safe for all of us to do so.

<p><b>4</b> weekly worships</p> <p><b>19</b> drive-in services</p> <p><b>196</b> virtual services</p> <p><b>3</b> Oak Grove Worship</p>	<p><i>Fall Kick-off</i></p>	<p><b>600+</b> cars through Drive-Thru Trunk-or-Treat</p> <p><b>500+</b> cars through Drive-Thru Live Nativity</p>	<p><i>Church School at Home</i></p>
<p><i>Drive-In Worship</i></p>	<p><b>Weekly</b> Chapel Service Curbside Communion Daily Facebook Devotions YMCA Childcare during COVID-19</p>	<p><i>Drive-Thru Live Nativity</i></p>	<p><b>128</b> VBS@Home students</p> <p><b>41</b> baptisms</p> <p><b>34</b> students confirmed</p> <p><b>186</b> monthly church school boxes</p>



## Pastor's Report: Rev. Mary Suomala Folkers

Lead Pastor

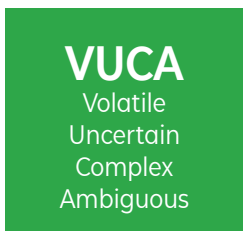


At the beginning of 2020, I was confident in the ministry plan for the upcoming year. I was excited for the staff team that we had put together (both the new additions and the more seasoned members). Everyone had the right gifts to minister to the congregation AND reach out to the community.

*And then March came...*

What I learned (and continue to learn) is that God provides. We have the right mix of technology-savvy and relationship-focused staff members and volunteers. At the heart of the game plan, we have our mission—Gather, Grow, and Go so that ALL may know Jesus.

We also had the right attitude. **Instead of focusing on what we couldn't do, we focused on what we could do.** We used tried-and-true means of connecting like phone calls, notes, outdoor worship services, and weekly one-on-one Communion (Curbside Communion). We used new methods of connecting including small groups via Zoom and online worship. What helped as we experimented with how to be about our mission was having the trust of our church family. I know it hasn't been easy, but I have felt graciousness and a willingness to hang together throughout this time.



Early in the pandemic, I heard a military acronym, VUCA, that has been helpful to me. In times of VUCA, it is crucial to stay focused on your mission! Our mission is stated well in our Church Constitution where it recognizes Jesus as the head of our church family and states that our purpose is to: "Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people, to bring them to faith in Christ, and doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all." (C4.02.c)

## My hopes for 2021:

- 1. In-person Worship:** Being back in-person once enough vaccines are in the community. It will be different—impacted and informed by everything we have learned in 2020, and something we don't take for granted.
- 2. BeFrienders:** Expand our caring ministry including more BeFrienders trained by Pastor Dan to equip congregation members to care for one another.
- 3. Church Outreach:** Be the Church outside the walls of the building through Curbside Communion and ministry in Downtown Fargo with Pastor Taylor.
- 4. Kids & Families:** Meeting the needs of our youth with Deacon Julie and Youth Director Diana, and continuing to partner with the YMCA for community childcare needs.
- 5. Mission Partners:** Encourage more of us as a congregation to care for our neighbors near and far. Locally, we have committed money to help Churches United for the Homeless with their building campaign, and globally, we have committed money to the India-Nepal water project through Lutheran World Relief.

There have been hard losses this past year and there has been hard-won growth, as well. Thank you for being part of this church family and for taking these steps of faith with us!

## Pastor's Report: Rev. Taylor Wilson

Pastor of Mission Development



As Pastor of Mission Development at Good Shepherd, part of my role is continuing to discern ways to make faith accessible to our members and broader communities. With Downtown Fargo being one of the intentional outlets for evangelism, discipleship, and creativity, I entered 2020 with excitement. We had an amazing Christmas Eve downtown, a solid start to the year in attendance during the first few months of the year, and excitement as I met with our lay leadership team to create a plan to make our Fargo Easter services a key part of the community and growth that would draw in guests and take a step toward sustainability. The postcards were ordered, the schedule was set, and I began to dream about what could be.

In the first week of March, I attended the Exponential





Conference in Orlando with other ELCA colleagues from the Synod. The conference drew in attendance from thousands of people from around the world interested in Evangelism, Discipleship, and Church Planting. Who knew one week later that the idea of thousands of people from around the world entering a place like Orlando would be classified as a hot spot and a terrifying thought!

We soon pivoted from in-person to online, which we've continued since mid-March. I had restructured the rental agreement in January 2020 to month-to-month from a one or two-year agreement, allowing us to put a pause on our financial commitment to a place we weren't using to gather the church community. We also opted to record worship out of one location to be good stewards of time and health for our volunteers and staff, shifting mainly to Moorhead. We also held special recording sessions at Rustic Oaks, Drekker, Twenty Below Coffee Company, Sanctuary Events Center, and outdoor events at Oak Grove Lutheran School in Fargo.

As I look forward to the 2021 ministry year, our plan is to continue to pause weekly Sunday morning services at Sanctuary Events Center. Once our leadership deems it safe, we're considering pivoting to a one-time-per-month afternoon/evening time of worship at Sanctuary Events Center, with opportunities for small groups, service opportunities, and fellowship taking place at local businesses and organizations afterward. We were granted an additional \$10,000 from the ELCA to pursue creative ways to be the church in outside-the-box ways, which we're doing through this pivot, as well as our new podcast, Life in FM, where we continue to share sermons and conversations related to faith and life in our community.



### Pastor's Report: Rev. Dan Forsberg

*Pastor of Congregational Care*

*"The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing, and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is the friend who cares." (Henri Nouwen)*

Henry Nouwen's quote captures the spirit and heart of the BeFriender Ministry that began in the throes of COVID-19. There couldn't have been a better or more important time for us to begin this journey together. BeFriender Ministry is a listening presence of lay ministers who represent their faith community adhering to four foundational principles:

1. God is present in every encounter
2. Caring, not curing
3. Non-judgmental presence
4. Active listening

In April, five members of Good Shepherd were trained via Zoom by the National Director of BeFrienders Ministry, Barb Schwery. This group became the Leadership Team:

- + **Trainer:** Mark Rice
- + **Facilitators:** Dorothy Suomala and Rod Engeseth
- + **Administrator:** Joan Engeseth
- + **Program Supervisor:** Pastor Dan Forsberg

In September, the Leadership Team trained and commissioned six new members—Galen Clow, Kari Jo Hanson, Armin Piphoo, Doug Schindler, Victor Teigen, and Beth VanderLinden. We have seven additional members of Good Shepherd who will be trained in early 2021.



Our BeFriender Team meets once a month via ZOOM for ongoing support. Currently, our team is committed to connecting with others by phone. Our goal is to expand this ministry to help meet the various needs of members here at Good Shepherd.

Pastor Mary and I have connected with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Minnesota in a new program, Community Care Corps. This is a volunteer model that pairs LSS expertise with local congregations to educate, train, and empower volunteers to provide high quality, non-medical support for older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers. Volunteer services will include direct, in-home support and the use of technology to connect isolated individuals/families to the community. Good Shepherd will be given eight iPads for members to use as a tool for overcoming isolation and connecting caregivers to their faith communities.

# gsChildren & Family



## gsChildren & Family: Deacon Julie Wilson

*Children & Family Ministry Director*

At best, a youth leader will have 40 hours with a kid or teenager in a given year. That same kid will have 3,000 hours with a parent or caregiver. We know that what happens at home matters more than what happens at church. But for parents, 2020 delivered a one-two punch: Work from home. Wear masks. Reduce your social circle. And, have so much time at home. Parents have found themselves worn down and worried. Our faith can help us in times like these. We can do hard things. And we can trust that God is in the midst of whatever you are facing. Faith Formation with kids ages 3-Grade 5 has shifted this year.

**VBS@Home:** Think Vacation Bible School (VBS) meets HelloFresh—128 children received a customized VBS box with all of their supplies for daily lessons, crafts, STEM skills, and service projects.

### School Year Programming (gsKids HelloBible boxes):

We know children need to hear God's promises and experience God's love now MORE THAN EVER! The monthly boxes are filled with quick activities kids can do anytime with supplies provided.

"HelloBible Boxes bring so much joy to our house!!"

"The Bible Box this month is amazing! So many fun activities and learning opportunities. We love having the conversation cards at the dinner table. I can't believe some of the answers my kids come up with."

**36**  
fourth grade students  
celebrated First  
Communion via Curbside  
Communion or Drive-In  
Worship



Drive-Thru First Communion

**35**  
decorated trunks for  
**600+**  
Drive-Thru Trunk-or-Treat  
vehicles



**1,600**  
Facebook/YouTube  
views of  
Family Christmas Night



Christmas Family Worship Night

I am excited and hopeful for what 2021 will hold for gsKids. It has been exciting to see how God is at work as we have had to pivot this past year. We will continue to keep the health and safety of our families in mind as we plan what programming, service opportunities, and at-home ministry will look like. Thank you for your encouragement, prayers, and financial support for the children and families at Good Shepherd!





### gsYouth: Diana Wright

*Youth Director*

In 2020, despite the pandemic and being mostly online, we were able to have a couple of fun youth group in-person events before we went virtual.

This year includes finding more creative ways to support students and families. While everyone is busy and it's not always easy to connect with people, being creative and figuring out fun, new ways to get involved has been both a challenge and a highlight for me. I'm excited to have in-person events happen again but realize that we can still connect through faith virtually, too! I'm grateful to be a part of a church that lets me think outside the box and meet people where they are in their faith journey and life!

**136**

confirmation students received

**122**

supplemental learning boxes

**Monthly**

check-ins, virtual game nights, and social justice sessions



**25**

care packages for high school seniors

**34**

students confirmed

**52**

Advent calendar kits

**Multiple**

Ruby's Pantry volunteers



### Gerry Ohe's Retirement

*Gerry Ohe retired on December 31*

Gerry retired from Eide Bailly in 2001, and since then, he has served as Treasurer of the Church Council, Trust Fund Committee Chair, and as our Finance Manager!

This fall, Gerry trained Karen Skarpness as she transitioned from her role as Church Secretary to her new role as Data Systems & Finance Manager.

Gerry described his service at Good Shepherd as "a labor of love." Messages for Gerry may be sent to [GoodShep@ktgs.org](mailto:GoodShep@ktgs.org). Thank you for your service, Gerry!

### Celebration of Life

*Remembering our departed saints who have claimed their baptismal promise, including members who passed away in 2020 and people connected with Good Shepherd whose funerals were held at the church:*

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Earl Lee        | Earl Stein         |
| Helen Seim      | Kathy Sahr         |
| Gayle Johnson   | Jennifer Johnson   |
| June Bailey     | LaVonne Evans      |
| Arlene Oien     | Larry Barber       |
| Gordon Rustad   | Richard C. Evanson |
| Ardyce Jacobson | Sid Engelstad      |
| Ardith Magnuson | Nathan Hausmann    |
| LaVerne Johnson | Terry Melting      |
| Olin Synstelién | Bill DeSaint       |
| Grant Haug      | Doris Dahlberg     |
| May Bredeson    | Wallace Stephenson |







## gsEngagement: Linda Bartholome

Congregation Engagement Director



The year 2020 was quite the year! As Pastor Mary emphasized throughout 2020, instead of staff concentrating on those things that we weren't able to do, we concentrated on all the things we could accomplish.

Staff shifted into new roles and worked well as a team to ensure relationships continued and grew leaps and bounds! *Highlights from 2020:*

- + **Feed My Starving Children:** In February, Good Shepherd volunteers packed food for the event, and fed the Feed My Starving Children staff.
- + **Life After Fifty:** Monthly, through March, the group enjoyed a time of fellowship with a speaker, food, and games.
- + **Weddings:** Ceremonies were smaller or moved outside to the east lawn—a few afternoons looked a little “iffy,” but we only had one rain-out!
- + **Baptisms:** We baptized at small ceremonies in the church, on the lawn, and at the lake.
- + **Blood Drives:** In March and September, we hosted blood drives through the American Red Cross to give back to our community.
- + **Sandwich Making:** 20+ crews worked in the church kitchen making sandwiches for Churches United serving homeless members of our community.
- + **YMCA Childcare:** This September–December we hosted the YMCA, allowing us to minister to students in our community.



Outdoor Wedding



Lake Baptism



Sandwich Crew

- + **New Member Connections:** Gatherings moved online via Zoom!
- + **Ruby's Pop-Up Pantry:** In November, we began hosting Ruby's Pop-Up Pantry. Monthly, we distribute food to anyone looking to extend their monthly grocery budget. Volunteers unloaded the food, sorted food and boxed it up in food bundles, loaded cars and directed traffic, and brought leftovers to local food pantries. We plan to continue this outreach ministry in 2021!
- + **gsConnect Small Groups:** Church is not closed—we just moved online!

We were made for relationships. Much of what we're to gain, learn and experience from healthy relationships is a reflection of the kind of connection God wants to have with us—and others. He shows us glimpses of himself through some of the people He puts in our lives. The year 2020 was a perfect example of what it meant to connect with people in new ways. God walked beside us in 2020 and will continue to guide us in 2021!

## gsEngagement: Helping Hands

*A ministry of servant leaders*

The Helping Hands had their most successful Pancake Feed in January--thanks to our church family and the many community members who participated.

Our group met until COVID-19 hit; however, ministry still happened but in different ways. Ministries supported by Helping Hands in 2020: Good Shepherd Youth, parking lot maintenance (including repainting lines), radio broadcasts, coffee fund, Good Shepherd “Laugh. Pray. Serve.” Group, food security for community members, lawn care through FM Properties, planting new trees, and a Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity Build.



Parking Lot Striping

In addition to taking care of our beautiful grounds (lawn mowing and snow removal teams), the group has helped with several projects throughout the year.

We were also saddened by the loss of our departed brothers in Christ—Earl Lee, Gordy Rustad, Grant Haug, Earl Stein, Sid Engelstad, and Bill DesSaint. You have made an impact on us all and have been amazing role models.

We are looking forward to what God has in store for us in the coming year.

## gsEngagement: Women of the ELCA

Lutheran women who gather for service, study, advocacy, and fellowship



The women of Good Shepherd met for Circle gatherings through the month of February. Concentrating on what we could do rather than what we weren't

able to do, gatherings occurred in smaller groups during the year. A big thank you to Dorothy Suomala who prepared monthly Bible study discussions, so that our women were able to continue being in God's Word. Many stories were shared with me on how ladies looked forward to Bible study and fellowship!

Gather, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions and stories of comfort and challenge that help readers grow in faith and engage in



ministry and action. Gather is published 10 times a year with combined issues in January/February and July/August. A print subscription is \$19.95 a year. Digital access (computer, iPad, Android) is free to print for subscribers. For more information, or to subscribe by phone, call 844.409.0576.

Our Good Shepherd quilters were still busy throughout the year. Many quilt tops were created and sewn in homes. A small group of quilters met twice a week with five or less at each gathering. Even though we were unable to send quilts in May and October, the ladies were able to share many of their quilts with those in our own community. Our afternoon quilters were also busy sewing lap quilts for many of our shut-ins. The women were great examples of how ministry continued to happen. Several masks were also sewn and shared with their Good Shepherd family!



The Women of the ELCA revenue was mainly received through monthly Circle offering, in addition to contributions from our Good Shepherd members. A large check for \$1,500 was sent to the Churchwide Women of the ELCA in December in support of women's ministries!

**\$1,593.00**

end-of-year checking  
account balance



## Welcome, New Members!

### Received February 2020

- + Tony & Sarah Antes, Haley and Nolan
- + Kirk and Kristi Arendes, Savannah
- + Galen and Cindy Clow
- + Pastor Dan Forsberg and Debbie Forsberg, Selma Harris
- + Alex & Dani Gee
- + Chris and Lee Anne Hanson
- + Issiah & Kalicia Hruby
- + Diana Kempenich
- + Kyle & Kristin Kramer and Quinn
- + Gabe Lassila
- + Ernie & Diane Mancini
- + Colleen and Aaron Murray, Morgan and Hudson
- + Dale and Jerelyn Musgrave
- + Jeffrey & Trisha Myklebust, Wyatt, Casyn, and Emersyn
- + Darrell and Kris Olson
- + Neil & Laurie Polka
- + Sarah Rudlang and Jeremiah Graves
- + Taylor and Laura Wolford, Livia

### Received June 2020

- + Judy Curry
- + Tara and Salvador DeLa Rosa
- + John and Pam Ellenson, Anna
- + Kathryn Erickson
- + Amber Holmen
- + James Holmen
- + Pastor Judy Holmen
- + Chris McEwen
- + Marah Moy
- + Carson and Emily Ouellette, Olivia
- + Arleen Stein

### Received September 2020

- + Whitney Balmer
- + Tim and Carlie Bryant, Finnlise and Brawley
- + Shari and John Lammers
- + Lindsey Lammers
- + Elizabeth Ringquist, Julianna & Alivia
- + Karl and Nicole Stumo, Bryn, Karsten, and Maren
- + Leah Swedberg
- + Ben and Maggie Thoreson, Beck, Evie, and Nora
- + Wylie and Brittany Wisnewski, Madison

### Received December 2020

- + Joe Allen and Barbara Beckman
- + Judy Schmidt





### gsWorship Arts: Jon Dahl

Worship Arts Director

The pandemic sped up our process of learning how to worship digitally. Our Worship and Production Team rose to the challenge and produced four worship services per week for a total of 196 worship experiences.

Each week, a volunteer team of musicians, technicians, pastors, and staff work to create, record, and edit content to provide meaningful worship events that are touching more and more people across the globe each week. In 2020, new camera and sound equipment was purchased to make a more personal at-home experience.

Thank you for joining us each week on Facebook, YouTube, and the radio for worship! You can use social media to watch back on-demand for all Good Shepherd events produced: Daily Devos, Beer+Hymns, Carols+Cocktails, and Leading the Conversation events on mental health, giving, our community, and more!

**4,282**  
Facebook followers  
@gsMoorhead

**1,288**  
Facebook followers  
@gsDowntownFargo



Recording at  
Sanctuary Events Center



Worship At-Home

**870**  
Instagram followers  
@gsMoorhead

**286**  
Instagram followers  
@gsDowntownFargo



Worship Band



Technical Crew

**62,438**  
total website visits  
(up 28% in 2020)

**1,503**  
most visits in a single day  
(Easter Sunday 2020)

**23,707**  
unique/new  
website visitors



Photo: Golden Pine Productions



Photo: Golden Pine Productions



Drive-In Worship

**349**  
YouTube followers  
@MoorheadGoodShepherd

**37,426**  
views  
(since 2013)



Photo: Golden Pine Productions



Photo: Golden Pine Productions



Leading the Conversation





## gsTrust Fund: Jim Lichtsinn

*Chair of the Good Shepherd Trust Fund*

The LCGS Trust Fund Committee is endeavoring to re-energize the Trust Fund. In compliance with the resolution that established the fund in 1984, we are refining our mission. We are pleased to have engaged the services of the ELCA Foundation, which will help expand giving options for our congregation.

The ELCA Foundation provides professional gift planning services and options for our members, including:

- + Gifts made through wills, trusts or estates
- + Charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts
- + Endowment funds and donor-directed distribution agreements
- + Qualified charitable distributions from your IRA
- + Gifts of cash, securities and real estate

We now have more exciting opportunities to create a legacy at Good Shepherd, reduce taxes and sustainably grow the stewardship of our church!

For more information on these opportunities please contact a committee member or Rev. Keith Pearson, ELCA Foundation Regional Gift Planner, at 612.718.4197 or [Keith.Pearson@elca.org](mailto:Keith.Pearson@elca.org).

### Investments owned as of September 30, 2020:

ELCA Foundation	\$ 25,425
Vanguard-Wellesley and GNMA funds	\$160,469
Cash in Bell Bank	\$ 2,130
	2020 Total \$188,024
	2019 Total \$188,644
	2018 Total \$182,245
Three-Year Average Value—2020	\$186,304

### Distributions:

Policy is to distribute approximately 5% of the three-year average valuation to organizations that further the stewardship of our Church. This year \$9,000 was allocated as follows:

Hospice of the Red River	\$1,000
Ethos Home Care and Hospice	\$1,000
Churches United for the Homeless	\$2,000
Good Shepherd Youth Ministry	\$2,000
Bethesda-Churches United Ministry Initiative	\$3,000

### Trust Fund Committee:

- + Jim Lichtsinn, Chair
- + Joe Summers
- + John Holland
- + Joel Johnson
- + Dennis Nelson



### gsOnline Giving

*Schedule your recurring gift today!*

Thank you for your trust and support as we continue to gather, grow, and go for God's kingdom. To give electronically, text "GSFM" to 77977 or visit [KnowTheGoodShepherd.org/giving](http://KnowTheGoodShepherd.org/giving).

# Bishop's Report



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

*"Simeon took [the baby Jesus] in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'" (Luke 2:28-32)*

## Northwestern Minnesota Synod Report: Bishop Bill Tesch

Dear Beloved in Christ of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod,

I am writing in the final days of 2020, a year we will be happy to put behind us! In Luke 2, old Simeon meets the baby Jesus and praises God, because in this child the long era of Israel's oppression was behind them and a new era of salvation was dawning. Yet the baby Jesus was, like all babies, all promise and no product. Simeon may have died a satisfied man, but had he lived 33 more years, he would have seen Jesus fulfill some promises... and leave others yet to be fulfilled. Now we live in "the time between." This is the time between the revelation of Emmanuel, God with us in all of life, and the time when Jesus "will come again to judge the living and the dead," bringing justice and healing to all. In this time, we walk with the faith of Simeon, thanking God for the salvation we have seen and trusting God for the salvation yet to come. Our Gospel work is also shaped by the "in-between-ness" of these times. We are reassured by the countless ways that God has been faithful to us and to our church in the past, even while we trust that God will continue to show up for us in the daunting challenges we face in the future.

Please take a look at the enclosed/attached document which describes just some of the work we've been about as your synod staff this last year. This list is by no means comprehensive (that would be long, and possibly boring!). It's just the result of some brainstorming at one staff meeting last fall.

Since the start of the pandemic, I've understood our work to be keeping people connected, encouraged, informed and resourced. This has involved weekly and now semi-monthly virtual gatherings with rostered leaders, weekly and now monthly virtual meetings with congregation presidents, along with what has now become a vast collection of resources for church leadership in time of pandemic, COVID safety resources, virtual ministry resources, online worship services, etc.

This last year we've also been hard at work on our new strategic plan for the NW MN Synod. The plan flows from our vision: a people set free by the Gospel to be wholly devoted to Jesus and our neighbor in love. It is guided by our mission to foster safe and healthy places for the ministry of the Gospel to unfold and to shape an abundant future for all. It will focus on four lines of effort: vital small-membership congregations, leadership development, striving for justice and peace and responding to emerging change. Watch for more information on the strategic plan early this year.

Dear ones, thank you for your faithfulness in the Gospel! When the pandemic hit, you quickly adapted and found ways to share the good news in changed and challenging circumstances. Thanks also for your generosity that makes ministry happen, not only there in your congregation, but through your Mission Support, all across NWMN and around the world! Good work. Be encouraged: we are in this together.



In Christ our Brother,

Rev. Bill Tesch  
Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





## KINDNESS CHALLENGES COMPLETED

500+ socks given  
1,000+ diapers donated  
Meals delivered  
10 Family Care Packages  
125+ hats & mittens collected

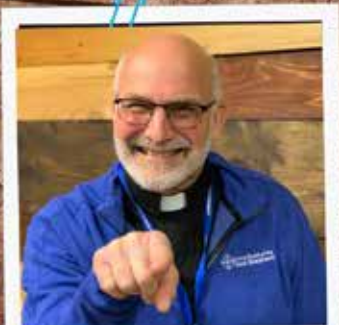
## 600+ HOUSEHOLDS GAVE TO OUR MISSION!

We put people first and shared there is a God out there who loves them.

## \$150,000+ GIVEN TO PARTNER MINISTRIES!

Churches United for the Homeless, Habitat for Humanity, Pathways Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, FirstLink, New Life Center, Oak Grove Lutheran School, Valley Christian Counseling Center, the YWCA Shelter, and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Minneapolis)

*YOU help us put people first!*



*Will YOU give?*



*Will YOU help?*



*Will YOU donate?*





## gsFinancial Report: Statistical Report

Karen Skarpness, Data Systems & Finance Manager



A. Membership	Baptized	Confirmed
<b>Membership as of 1-1-2020</b>	<b>2,837</b>	<b>1,780</b>
<b>Members Received in 2020:</b>		
By Baptism	41	
Transfer In	59	43
Affirmation of Faith	26	19
Members Confirmed in 2020: <i>In addition, 4 students who are not yet members were confirmed.</i>		30
<b>Subtotal of Members Received:</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Members Removed in 2020:</b>		
By Death	22	21
Transfer of Membership	18	8
By Removal	123	67
<b>Subtotal of Members Removed:</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Membership as of 12-31-2020</b>		
Total Households	984	
Resident Households	845	
Non-Resident Households	139	
Confirmed Members	1,776	
Baptized Members	2,800	
Affiliate Members	15	
<b>B. Ministerial Acts</b>		
Baptisms	41	
Affirmation of Faith	26	
Weddings	15	
Funerals	17	

Throughout this Annual Report, you will see statistics with each Ministry Area. These are shared by our Staff Team to give you a snapshot of the many people who have been involved with and impacted by the ministries that we share.

*Each number represents a person who is known and loved by God!*

We are so grateful for the many ways that God provided during a year when we could not be together in person, due to safety concerns with COVID-19.

With doing a new church directory and doing "every member" calls during the pandemic, we discovered that some people had moved out of the area, were attending other churches, or did not have a current address or telephone number on file with us. This resulted in significant updates to our membership roster and is reflected in the number of removals from membership in the report on this page.

With the retirement of Gerry Ohe, I began a new role in August as the Data Systems & Finance Manager. I look forward to working with everyone in new ways this coming year.

## gsWorship

*YOU are welcome here!*

Church is not closed!

+ **Calendar:** [KnowTheGoodShepherd.org/calendar](http://KnowTheGoodShepherd.org/calendar)

+ **Worship:** [KnowTheGoodShepherd.org/sermons](http://KnowTheGoodShepherd.org/sermons)

The best way to stay connected with Good Shepherd is to sign-up for our weekly emails via the *Online Connection Card* at [KnowTheGoodShepherd.org/live](http://KnowTheGoodShepherd.org/live).



# JOIN WORSHIP ONLINE!

## SUNDAYS ONLINE

### MOORHEAD

TRADITIONAL | 8:30 AM

CONTEMPORARY | 10:30 AM

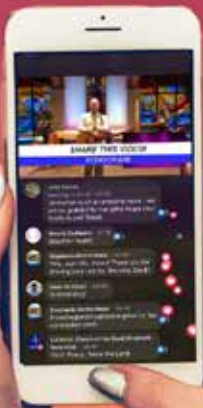
### FARGO

CONTEMPORARY | 10:00 AM

## WEDNESDAYS ONLINE

### MOORHEAD

CONTEMPORARY | 6:15 PM



[Facebook.com/gsmoorhead](https://www.facebook.com/gsmoorhead)

[Facebook.com/gsdowntownfargo](https://www.facebook.com/gsdowntownfargo)

[YouTube.com/MoorheadGoodShepherd](https://www.youtube.com/MoorheadGoodShepherd)

WDAY 970 AM: 11:00 am Sundays



gsMission

"Gather Joyfully,  
Grow Spiritually,  
and Go Faithfully  
so that ALL may  
know the Good  
Shepherd  
and experience  
abundant life in His  
name."



Good Shepherd | 4000 28th St S | Moorhead, MN 56560  
Sanctuary Events Center (no mail) | Fargo, ND 58102  
218.233.4980 | [KnowTheGoodShepherd.org](http://KnowTheGoodShepherd.org) | [GoodShep@tgs.org](mailto:GoodShep@tgs.org)  
[@gsMoorhead](https://www.instagram.com/gsmoorhead) | [@gsDowntownFargo](https://www.instagram.com/gsdowntownfargo)

