



Holy Spirit
Lutheran Church

— E L C I C —

A Welcoming Christ-Centered Community

2021 Annual Report and 2022 AGM Agenda

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

to be held

Sunday, February 13, 2022

11:30 am

(check in to begin at 11:15 am)

ZOOM # 8220 617 4062

Preamble: At the 2017 AGM members asked council to bring motions forward moved and seconded to future AGMs. It is more transparent in what the intentions of council are for the AGM and it helps the flow of the meeting. Bringing motions moved into an AGM does not mean they will be passed, rather it allows us to jump right into conversation. These motions can still be amended or voted down. Additions to the agenda or new motions may be added from the floor at the time of "Adoption of Agenda" or when they are germane to the motion under discussion.

**Holy Spirit Lutheran Church Annual General Meeting
Agenda**

Sunday, February 13, 2022

Chair: Toby Schneider, President

Recording Secretary: Arvid Pederson

Establish quorum: At least 27 confirmed members must be in attendance.



Agenda:

Motion: To open the 2022 HSLC AGM. Moved and seconded by council.

1. Devotion – Rev. Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum
2. Quorum
3. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 1: To adopt the 2022 HSLC AGM Agenda. Moved and seconded by council.

4. AGM Process

5. Holy Spirit Annual Report for 2021 (excluding the 2022 Budget)

Motion 2: To receive the 2021 Holy Spirit Annual Report as information. Moved and seconded by council.

Note: as per HSLC Bylaws Section 3, the minutes of the 2021 AGM were approved on behalf of the congregation by council at the May 10, 2021 council meeting.

6. Presentations

- a. Year in Review
- b. The Year to Come
- c. Strategic Focus: The Church We and Others Need

7. New Business

- a. Review of financial processes and books for 2021
- b. 2021 Financial Report (Amy Cooper)

Motion 3: To approve the 2021 Financial Report. Moved and seconded by council.

- c. Waving of Audit Requirement for 2022

Motion 4: To wave the requirement for an audit for the 2022 fiscal year as enabled in HSLC Bylaws Section 7 and provide a report on the review of the financial system at AGM 2023 in lieu of an audit. Moved and seconded by council.

- d. Update on HSLC mortgage, federal government loan, and Line of Credit
- e. 2022 Budget (Amy Cooper)

Motion 5: To approve the 2022 HSLC Budget. Moved and seconded by council.

8. Nominations and Elections

- a. Nominations and Elections for Church Council
- b. Election of representatives for Mulhurst, Kuriakos, and Hastings camps.
- c. Election of representative for Serenity Funeral Services
- d. Acknowledgement of outgoing council members/installation of council.

9. Closing Motion: **To close the HSLC 2022 AGM.**

10. The Lord's Prayer and Benediction - Rev. Trish Schmermund



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MISSION STATEMENT

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church provides a welcoming and nurturing environment for anyone who chooses to join us in our walk with Jesus. In this walk, we praise God, we cherish community, we strive for justice, and we learn about our faith, our world, and each other. In our shared and individual lives, we are witnesses of God’s saving grace, love, and forgiveness through our actions, attitudes, and relationships with others.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Resilience is a strong indicator of health. We all hope and pray we have the strength to be resilient in the face of life's challenges when they visit. We also hope for helping hands of friends and family when our strength is not enough. Holy Spirit has shown incredible resilience as a community through these past two years. With God's help and guidance, we continue to find our way through uncertain times and find a way to hold each other up. We are worshiping and connecting in new ways, and though we long for the return of our in-person fellowship times, our new ways to connect will not be lost.

Our congregation's faithfulness never ceases to amaze. Whether it be the volunteering to read a scripture for worship, call a member who needs some connection, clear a sidewalk of snow, mow the dandelions...I mean lawn, teach a Sunday School class, lead a Bible study, or any other of the numerous activities that need taking care of, Holy Spirit makes it happen.

Congregational Council met online this year. Each Congregational Council member was involved in at least one Committee, and several members held elected positions in addition to committee work. Our hardworking Council members created a tactical plan, followed all of our governance procedures and reporting requirements, and provided oversight for the operations of our congregation. Our Annual Report highlights just some of the good work that our congregation has achieved this year.

Our staff have been absolute stars through these intense times. I would like to especially thank Pastor Trish and Lori, our Office Administrator for their amazing work, which is even more remarkable than usual given Pastor Lindsey's parental leave for much of 2021. I would also give a shout out to our FLIP Team members, Joseph, Anton, and Maija for their work with our congregation during the second half of 2021, and to Pastor Trish, Sara and Darryl for their active support of the FLIP internship program.

For 2022, Council will continue to pursue a missional approach to church leadership. This means actively listening to our community, both our membership and the community surrounding all of us and asking the question *where is God leading us and what should we try next?*

As a congregation we need to grow to remain resilient, viable and strong in mission. Growth is about membership and attendance for sure, but it's more about growing in the Spirit, growing in our connectedness as a community, and growing in our faith.

I want to thank our congregation, staff, congregational council members, committee members and volunteers for their hard work and support that made 2021 a successful year!

Toby S, President

PASTORS' REPORT

Welcome to 2022!

Through 2021 HSLC Council and committees have been working on a Strategic Focus and the Tactical Plan which includes three broad areas: Participation, Witness, and Growth.

These documents enable our council and committees to stay focused on those areas we feel we need to pay attention to under God's guidance. They are broad enough to give room for new ideas and activities and yet provide some structure for our work. You too, are part of the ministry of this church, and I wonder if you might take some time to reflect on these areas:

Participation

We give thanks for all means of participation! Are there ways you would like to change your participation this year? For whom do you give thanks for their sharing of gifts? Is there someone you might invite to work alongside of you?

Witness

HSLC has a special ministry. Who needs to hear about God's radical love and how might that be accomplished? What is your faith story? How has God journeyed with you and your loved ones this last year?

Growth

In what ways do you feel God is encouraging you to stretch and learn/serve? Who inspired your giving? Who might you encourage to generosity?

In 2021 COVID continued to play a major role in our congregational life. We constantly needed to stay abreast of guidelines/restrictions and interpret them for our context. It's been a bit of a moving target and I am so appreciative of this church family in navigating the last 2 years with grace, understanding and love.

This pandemic has stretched us. We've learned new ways to participate with many online or pre-recorded Bible readings, children's messages and Sunday School lessons. We've grown a Tech Team and learned to use new equipment for livestreaming and recording worship services. We've adapted to Zoom. It wasn't long ago that I didn't know anything about video editing, but I do now! What has challenged us has also grown us. We have learned to carry out ministry in ways we never imagined were possible. Who says Lutherans can't change?

We've also grieved this last year. The unspoken disappointment of not being able to worship together, sing together, to eat at long potluck tables or even commune at the altar rail. We've missed our families and supporting one another in person. We miss being together, because God created us to be together.

As we continue this journey of faith in this time, we keep hope. We've had people connect with us from near and far to ask about our congregation. Our members have been faithful in giving. People have taken leadership in new ways. Many people who are struggling and in need have found safety and help. We are doing good work.

The FLIP team has wrapped up its work with reporting and evaluations completed in the middle of January. By all accounts this has been a "successful" experiment! In terms of Missional Thinking, we recall that "success" is measured by way of what was learned and how God was experienced. In those terms, let me assure you that a lot was learned for all involved. I would invite you to add your thoughts/reflections – just send me a note or give me a call; I really appreciate to hear from you! Once the final reports are completed, I will share this with you too. Thank you to Anton, Maija and Joseph for their participation in this experiment. Each of you brought who you are to this work and were open to trying something that was uncertain. You took each day in stride and I know that what you learned here will continue to shape you into the future. God bless each of you!

As you may have heard, in January I was blessed to be in Vancouver for the ordination of Bishop Kathy Martin of the British Columbia Synod. It was a joyful occasion in which I was invited to preach – a real honor to both attend and bring the good news. The text was the story from Matthew of the Wise Men who encountered obstacles along the way as they followed the star to find Jesus – a good lesson for us as we begin 2022 – just look for the star when you feel lost, it points to Christ!

My appointment as Dean of the Northern Area continues. As with our congregation, this work has looked very different in these challenging times. As you might imagine, we are not the only church struggling and adapting. Yet, we are beginning to ask about and look to the future with hope and imagination as a Synod. Thank you for your ongoing and faithful benevolence for the ABT Synod.

As always, I must give thanks and credit to the teamwork that enables much of the ministry to happen here. As a church family we pull together and are reminded that we are just that, a family of faith. To each of you as members, to HSLC council, to Pr. Lindsey and Lori Z. – my gratitude is overflowing for each of you. To Ken who supports me and the ministry of this congregation – this work would be enormously more difficult without you. God's blessing be with you all.

In peace,
Pastor Trish

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

The Pastors' Discretionary Fund is provided for ministry in unexpected circumstances or emergency situations that are not otherwise planned for in our budget. It takes a high degree of discernment in such situations, and our pastors appreciate the availability of these funds as provided by the congregation. While we often cannot disclose specifics on their use, we can say that they are very much appreciated by those who receive them.

In 2021, \$330 was used from this fund to support people in need. Here is one story to help you understand just how valued this ministry is.

In November, a youth (not known to our congregation) called Pastor Trish. They had been living with their parents, but the situation turned abusive and unsafe, so they left. As you can imagine, there was nowhere to go with shelters being full and extended family being unsafe as well. They were very scared and worried that they would be found. This person had enough to put themselves up in a hotel temporarily, until more permanent accommodations could be found, but needed help to bridge that time. Desperate, they found Holy Spirit and gave us a try. Pastor Trish met with this young person and they talked together about the situation and the help needed. In the end Holy Spirit provided for 2 nights accommodation to help get them enough time to find a new home and employment. To be able to provide this small relief and a listening ear meant the world for this person. They couldn't believe that they would receive such support simply for the asking.

This is ministry folks. We know that you sometimes don't get to hear or experience the good work your support accomplishes and so we wanted to give you a small glimpse of a good news story. Thank you for your support and trust as we work together to be love in the world.

With Gratitude,
Pastor Trish and Pastor Lindsey

ASSOCIATE PASTORS' REPORT

A Faithful Response 500 Years Ago and Now

It has been more than 500 years since Martin Luther's writings first went viral. While many have heard of his famed *95 Theses*, we may not be as well versed with his other works on everything from family life to public health. Even though I had the chance to study a few of Luther's letters in seminary, I am still taken aback when his words clearly speak to the context of our own time.

In the early months of the COVID pandemic a quote from Martin Luther's 1527 letter "*Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague*" began to appear across social media. The letter had originally been written in the midst of an outbreak of the bubonic plague in Wittenberg to help area pastors to faithfully understand their response to the pandemic they were facing.

Luther wrote: "*Therefore I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. ... See, this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God.*"

As it turned out, Luther himself had been ordered to leave the university in Wittenberg, where he taught. He refused. Instead, he and his pregnant wife, Katharina von Bora, a former nun who had learned some nursing skills in the cloister, stayed behind and opened a wing of their home as a clinic.

Martin Luther's writings and life not only help us to realize that the church has survived plagues and pandemics before – but that we have a unique calling at these times to live out our faith in hope, trust, and service of one another as people of God.

As I reflected on Luther's example, I began to think of our life here together at Holy Spirit over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am grateful for all the ways you continue to uplift and support the life and work of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church with your time, talents, gifts, and stewardship even in these difficult times.

Over the course of the pandemic, we have explored many ways of gathering, supporting, and actively caring for one another. We have pivoted, worn masks, helped one another get groceries, worshiped online, connected with isolated members and friends, all the while mourning and celebrating alongside one another in these times. I am thankful for the hours of dedication our congregation's teachers, committees, council, volunteers, and our church staff have given to ensure we remain a vibrant and welcoming community of faith both online and within this neighborhood.

I have been blessed to be a part of Holy Spirit's community for the last 7 years – and it's been my honour to serve alongside you as we have watched our faith community grow and respond to the needs of our time. I am also thankful for the wonderful and trusting partnerships in ministry with all of our team at HSLC – Pastor Trish; our office administrator, Lori; Jared, our choir director; our council; committees; musicians; accompanists; and our FLIP Team.

I am grateful for your words of encouragement, care, and support of Danika and I as we welcomed our daughter Georgia into the world this July. I am truly grateful for the gift of time to be on parental leave with my family and the support of HSLC's staff and congregation to make that possible.

Please continue to pray for us as a family of faith, and listen for the ways God is calling forth the many gifts and blessings you have been given to share even in these times with this congregation and our wider community. May the grace and peace of God be with you all as you do.

In Christ,
Pastor Lindsey

MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

During the past year, the Mutual Ministry Team established by Council met five times.

One of the major tasks of the team was to review the Mutual Ministry Guide created by the ELCIC's National Church Council and create Terms of Reference for HSLC. This was reviewed and approved by Holy Spirit Church Council. "The Mutual Ministry Team (MMT) seeks and provides helpful processes for nurturing good and healthy relationships together." A primary purpose of the MMT is, "To support effective communication among the congregation, council, rostered ministers, and staff." Congregational members are encouraged to contact any members of the MMT for a copy of the complete Terms of Reference or any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Andrea M left the team this year and MMT thanks her for her contributions over the past two years. Current members of the team are Pastor Trish, Pastor Lindsey, Lori Z, Gail A, Sandra T, Jeff V, and Harry W.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Mutual Ministry Team,

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

2021 continued to be a year of learning to operate in new and unusual ways for the Administration Committee. We owe sincere thanks to our church staff for their devotion in time and imagination to meet all the new challenges they were faced with. On-line worship and everything else continued to operate almost seamlessly.

The church user groups were 'off and on' again this year as the groups reacted to the ever changing COVID 19 rules. Thanks to staff's very capable coordination of users through the changes this year.

Our excellent working relationship with the Edmonton Region Child Care Association (ERCCA) continued throughout the year. Other user groups were able to meet again starting in the fall including a new group - UnLeesh Kickboxing.

Thanks to the Property Committee volunteers who donated many hours on maintenance and upgrade projects this year.

- Thanks to ERCCA's fundraising efforts, the playground underwent a major renovation.
- There were several incidents of damage or theft in and around the church property. Details are available in the Property Committee report.

The Administration Committee met seven times addressing ongoing administration issues and other items such as:

- Reviewed and reduced cleaning services for the spring and summer because of reduced use of the building.
- Pastor's Discretionary Fund Policy has been finalized.
- In March we received \$5,000 from the Alberta Government's Faith-based and Cultural Facility Relaunch Grant which was used to help in the purchase of camera equipment and computers for our live-streaming services.
- Tech Team continues to do an outstanding job and we thank them for this work.
- An application for the Alberta Security Infrastructure Program Grant (ASIP) was submitted by the November 10 deadline. We are in the process of gathering the required additional documentation. The application will be reviewed early in 2022. Thanks to all involved in preparing this application on short notice. If approved, this grant would improve security for our building and help to reduce future incidents of damage and theft.

Thanks for the time commitment by the committee members in meeting all new challenges.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy C, Lori Z, Ellen P, and Arvid P, on behalf of the Administration Committee

Property Committee Report

Another year has gone by and, by the grace of God, a lot of work, within the committee and throughout the congregation has taken place. It is with blessing, faith and spirit that we have maintained, improved and projected future improvements for the structure, mechanical, landscaping and appearance of our God given property.

Over the past year, we have endured our share of vandalisms, break ins and intrusions on our property and building. The largest of these is; the theft of the 9 brass letters off the outside of the building. As it stands now, we are contemplating replacement and/or alternative signage/identification of who we are. The break in through the classroom with broken window and frame damage has also accounted for concern and reflection on what we need to do to protect our interests. With that being said, let's look at some positives;

- Security cameras have been installed for much of the perimeter of the building.
- Dusk to dawn lighting replaced and improved on the perimeter (more is required in areas).
- Replacement of the wood base in the existing shed was done with the addition of a side shed for additional storage.
- Lighting in the gym was replaced with LED bulbs due to some ballasts burning out and causing a noxious smell in the gym.
- Assistance to the Tech Team on setting up their equipment.
- Lawn care and snow removal throughout the year has held its own with many stepping up to assist.
- Drywall and painting in the narthex due to water damage was repaired and taken care of.
- Countless other necessary tasks have been accomplished through the year by many, known and unknown.

Although we prefer to know and acknowledge these persons, we know the spirit works through them in our ministry.

The installation/revitalization of the daycare playground area was done by the ERCCA. Many community residents and parishioners have commented on the appreciation of such a wonderful addition. Thank you ERCCA.

For 2022, our list has not diminished on the needs of our building, mechanical, interior and exterior for maintenance and upkeep. Over the years, we have procrastinated on many "needs" due to financial restraint. We all will continue to do what we can to keep HSLC a viable faith centered property and community for many to enjoy. Do feel welcome to consider/share your abilities, experiences and stewardship for the whole of HSLC.

Thanks be to God,
Respectfully Ken S

Stewardship Committee Report

The Stewardship Committee continued to work on building awareness of our congregation's need for stronger and more consistent giving throughout the year. For the first eight months of 2021, revenue trailed expenditures each month resulting in nearly \$60 k deficit by the end of August. In the fall, giving rose and stabilized the deficit. A strong December brought our finances back into shape. While this is not an unusual pattern for HSLC, there was an improvement over 2020, in which each of the first eleven months experienced a deficit. The impact of this giving pattern is threefold:

1. it creates the need for sufficient access to funds to float large deficits,
2. it creates risk that we will miss our fiscal target by a significant amount if December giving is not strong,
3. it creates stress on our congregation with too much worry and focus on deficit.

In 2021, the Stewardship Committee hosted two sessions with the congregation on our financial situation. There were also updates provided each month by Council President. Monthly summaries are available in every newsletter.

For 2022, the Stewardship Committee will continue to work to educate and encourage the congregation to embrace strong and steady financial contributions to our church.

Submitted by Toby S.

Strategic Committee Report

The Strategic Committee has the authority to manage the process for long-term planning via strategic planning and governance on behalf of congregational council. The congregational council currently holds the role of Strategic Committee on behalf of the Congregation. For 2021, Congregational Council completed a full cycle of the governance process. This included confirming the current Strategic Focus is still relevant, creating a Tactical Plan, reviewing performance of roles and committees, and reviewing the relationships between various roles and committees in our congregation.

For 2022, Strategic Committee will once again follow the governance cycle. This will include an active investigation of our congregation's trajectory and potential paths forward as a congregation. Strategic Committee will also lead the Constitutional Renewal process, which has been deferred for the past two years due to the pandemic.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Over the year we have learned that our ministry continues to be vibrant as we continue to gather online. Communication is no longer just a paper newsletter that you pick up at the back of the church on Sunday, but it arrives in your home in an email update, you can seek it out on the website from your computer, tablet or smartphone. You can check your email for the location, time and Zoom number for Bible study and book club, youth events, and other virtual gatherings. If you are an HSLC Facebook friend or on Instagram you will even see events, reminders and ideas in your social media feeds. You can speak up during the service and send greetings or responses in the chat bar during the live broadcasts, gather for virtual coffee during a Zoom session or find out about the latest youth happenings on Discord.

Some changes this year included an improvement in the quality of our live streaming with the addition of a second camera and updates to our sound system with some generous financial giving from within the congregation. Our Tech Team has expanded to support a small roster of six who take turns working behind the scenes to bring you the online services. We always welcome anyone who would like to see how things work or who are thinking of trying their hand at learning a new skill or applying their expertise with PowerPoint, sound and video production work.

As always, we are looking for ways to support better communication and welcome ideas from all. We look forward to a time where we can gather together more freely, but also with a mind for what we have learned over the past few years – that our ministry is greater than simply gathering in the building; it extends beyond our fixed space. With that in mind we are always looking for ways to extend ourselves beyond our walls and open our doors to the world. As we move forward we look for ideas and means to extend our ability to communicate with others through our social media, email, online ministry opportunities, and we continue to look at the task of revamping and updating our website as a node for connecting and outreach. While we often have many different ideas in mind, we also appreciate and need support bringing them to life through directed time, talents, and financial support, but also by sharing your thoughts, ideas and through your active involvement, participation and sharing in church life.

Many special thanks are extended to the great work of the pastors, office staff, FLIP team, Tech Team, Zoom hosts, but as well to those who have embraced communicating and being involved in new ways. This is the support you all give others by sharing your technical expertise to help a friend, neighbor or family member connect with church by sending along and sharing a hyperlink to our services and events, joining our service and being present with welcomes and comments, liking and sharing our social media on Facebook or Instagram within your other friend networks and community – by participating this way you are all an active member of our communication and other congregational teams. Thank you all for your involvement, participation and support.

Michael C
Communications Committee

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

When we started out in February 2021, there was hope that by summer we would be moving towards having everyone double vaccinated. Maybe then we could plan on getting together with a potluck in the fall. Remember the “best summer ever” and “Covid is over” statements being thrown around this summer? Now we are back again to a combination of virtual and live worship and trying our best to engage in fellowship with each other safely. Unfortunately, sometimes visual cues such as a smile are missed when we are masked. Socializing with virtual meetings and the technology of it all, just becomes too much for some. As with every other report here, it has been a different year as we have had to struggle with how to reach out to our church family both electronically and physically while still distancing.

As we look back at this year starting with the first virtual AGM, we organized a virtual Valentines party, and made up Holy Week activity bags. From the 2021 AGM, there had been some interest expressed in creating a memorial garden. Two memorial garden meetings were held, but there was not enough expressed interest in proceeding with exploring this project at this time.

In the fall we presented, as other council members did, in the Stewardship series with Community Engagement as a theme. The committee followed that up with a scheduled meeting and inviting community members to attend or submit ideas for activities or projects to bring our church family together in fellowship.

This December was a little better than last year as the church was open for in-person worship but limited to 50 individuals. We again provided Christmas Worship kits with 40 kits put together with the help of two volunteers (Bev F. and Margie N.) whose help was greatly appreciated. It provided us with an opportunity to get to know one another a little bit better. We also took the opportunity to address and stamp 40 cards that were sent out to shut ins, friends and members of our congregation. The Giving Tree was well supported and both organizations (Boots on the Ground and Bear Clan Patrol) were grateful for the items supplied from our congregation.

In the coming year we, like everyone else, look forward to coming together in person. But until that time, we plan to continue engaging virtually with our church family. With the success of the Christmas Worship Kits, we will be planning kits again for Holy Week. We are also looking for community themes for the next year or an event(s) that we could do virtually. Perhaps a new take on something we have traditionally done in person, or something entirely new.

We would welcome any suggestions from our church family. Ideas or suggestions can be emailed to community.engagement@holyspiritlutheran.ca. Thanks to all who have supported and participated with the Community Engagement Committee this past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene F and Paul T,
Community Engagement Committee

Food Bank Depot Report

The Holy Spirit Food Bank Depot continues to hum along at maximum capacity distributing 914 hampers in 2021 to 20 clients every week. Our Depot received 26,120 kg of food valued at \$148,884 from the Edmonton Food Bank that was distributed in the hampers. This does not include all that was donated to the Food Bank donation box, nor what was received to stock our own Parish Pantry which has seen a significant uptake in use from our community.

A highlight of 2021 was when our Depot received the Janet Hughes award to recognize our dedication in keeping our Depot open to serve the community during COVID.

Special thanks to our dedicated volunteers who carry out this important outreach into the community every Tuesday afternoon.

Going forward in 2022, we anticipate a continuing need for Food Bank hampers as we move into the third year of COVID restrictions. If any of the congregation has questions about the Depot operations or would like to volunteer, please feel free to talk/text/phone me (780-708-5025).

Submitted by Carola U
Food Bank Depot Coordinator

Yesterday's Youth Report

Yesterday's Youth met over Zoom once a month from January to June with an average attendance of 13. In September, 12 of us were able to meet in the hall with bag lunches for bingo. Further COVID 19 restrictions resulted in us meeting over Zoom again from October to December. The average attendance was 11.

We wish to thank

- Tom S. and Ellen P. for arranging our Zoom meetings
- Pat P. for stepping in and arranging the September meeting on short notice,
- our church office administrator, Lori, who helps in countless ways,
- all our volunteers .

Thank you all.

Looking forward, we hope to revitalize this long-standing organization when we resume in-person meetings. We will need to find a new president and determine a new meeting format since our caterers have retired.

Submitted by Ellen P

Yesterday's Youth Financial Summary 1 January to 31 December 2021

Opening Balances	Cash	\$240.00
	Chequing	<u>\$2,735.62</u>
	Total	<u><u>\$2,975.62</u></u>
Total Income		\$0.00
Expenses:	Donations Made	-\$10.00
	Entertainment and Gifts	<u>-\$24.20</u>
	Total Expenses	<u>-\$34.20</u>
Income Less Expenses		-\$34.20
		<u><u>\$2,941.42</u></u>
Closing Balances	Cash	\$165.80
	Chequing	<u>\$2,775.62</u>
	Total	<u><u>\$2,941.42</u></u>

LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE REPORT

2021 continued to be a challenging time due to the Covid pandemic for Holy Spirit Lutheran Church and our community. We continued to support learning to help all groups grow in faith in the last year with programs being conducted online. Thank you to staff and volunteers who have worked to try to connect with families during limited in person interactions and mostly online educational opportunities. Thursday morning Bible studies for adults, Wednesday night book clubs, Confirmation and Sunday School still were offered. Learning continued in our church!

Our Sunday School was set to start in-person classes in September before health regulations forced us to be online again. Six teachers volunteered and many have tried to record online lessons using our Spark digital resources. Thanks to Anton C. who continues to upload the videos. A highlight was the 2021 virtual Christmas concert where parents dressed up their children to be people in the story of Jesus' birth and interviewed them about what they felt about that holy night! The CLAY youth gathering that was planned to be held in Calgary was online this summer.

It has been a pleasure serving as a council member with such a supportive team of staff, council and parent volunteers.

Submitted by Tanya G-C,
Lifelong Learning Committee Chair

MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

This past year continued to be a challenging one again at Holy Spirit as the pandemic continued on in 2021. Holy Spirit continued to adapt to new ways of ministry. We are thankful for the many volunteers who assisted this year in making ministry happen at Holy Spirit.

The ministry committee met a total of 8 times this past year. The committee coordinated the many volunteers needed to provide worship by supporting the creation of several volunteer coordinators who schedule members and friends weekly in the roster duties of readers, prayer writers, singers, musicians, ushers, altar guild, and children's time. The Tech Team was coordinated by the Communication Committee. Thank you to the following coordinators: Diane L, Nancy P, David J, Belynda K and Bart P. Thank you to all the many volunteers who participated in the various rosters. It is all much appreciated and you all add much to the ministry at Holy Spirit.

The Worship Committee was not active this past year as the staff was in charge of selecting liturgy and hymns at present. Choir remained on hold due to pandemic restrictions. Worship services were live streamed throughout the year and in person worship was slowly re-introduced in the summer (4 live services). In September 2021, all services were both in-person and on line. During Easter and Christmas, some services were pre-recorded (and shown on YouTube) as well as a few in the summer to give the TechTeam a needed rest. All AHS guidelines were followed in terms of building capacity for in-person worship and it was encouraged that those not having access to computers would have priority for in-person worship. There was a Synod wide live streamed service on April 11, 2021. A LiVE for LENT reflection was offered mid-week on Facebook. Communion was the second and fourth Sunday of the month.

The Connect Care Team was formed and was active in offering phone support and fellowship to members who lived alone or had no access to on-line services. Thank you to the volunteers on the Connect Care Team. The team met a couple times through the year and overall it has been a very positive ministry for the recipients and the volunteers as per the feedback received.

There were two New Member Sundays this year- May 30 and November 7. We welcomed the new members by giving them a plant as a gift. Both New Member Sundays were on-line so members were welcomed also on the Zoom chat after service. This fall the committee produced a New Members kit. This included a newsletter, a welcome letter and copy of the Strategic Focus. This was given to members on November 7.

The Tactical Plan was finalized for the committee this fall.

As part of the Stewardship Series, the Ministry Committee presented on Thanksgiving Sunday, our focus and encouragement for sharing of time and talent with us.

The Ministry Committee goals for the coming year are to continue supporting the Connect Care Team. This has been a new ministry that has been received well. We will continue to recruit and encourage all the volunteers to share their gifts. We will also be of support to new members to give them encouragement to become involved in Holy Spirit as their talents lead them. As the pandemic lessens, we will plan to revisit some programs and ministries which have been on hold.

Thank you to the members of the Ministry Committee this year for all your input and participation – Diane L, Toby S and Dorothea C. It is been a gift to work with you all.

Submitted by,
Janet A, Ministry Committee Chair

CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

At the time of printing, no nominations have been brought forward. Council currently has 10 returning members. Our Constitution stipulates we require a council of 10 - 18 members. Nominations from the floor are invited and encouraged.

Church Council 2021

Toby Schneider	President
Michael Chell	Vice-President & Communications Committee
Amy Cooper	Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Administration Committee
Arvid Pederson	Secretary & Administration Committee
Janet Aaron	Ministry Committee & Worship Committee
Darlene Frohlich	Community Engagement Committee
Tanya Gusdal-Calkins	Lifelong Learning Committee
Dan Loewen	Administration Committee
Paul Thomsen	Community Engagement Committee
Lori Zeiner	Administrator
Pastor Trish Schmermund	
Pastor Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum	

Council wishes to thank Tanya Gusdal-Calkins who is stepping down from council after completing a four-year term.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Holy Spirit ended 2021 with a budget surplus of \$6,057!

During the past year, we received:

- an additional \$20,000 government loan with a \$10,000 loan forgiveness component for a total loan of \$60,000 with \$20,000 forgivable,
- we received \$3,261 in government wage subsidies to help us weather through this pandemic, and
- we received a \$5,000 grant from the provincial government which helped to cover the costs of increasing our livestreaming capabilities.

These steps taken helped to ensure we could pay our expenses during the year given our decreased ability to rely on internally designated funds to cover our deficits. We will continue to monitor any COVID-19 related benefits that are applicable to us during 2022.

Our estimated weekly budget for 2022 is \$8,130 – this is what we need on a weekly basis to be able to pay salaries, property costs and programming costs.

Please consider signing up for the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) program or set up a recurring credit card donation to ensure consistent monthly stewardship. You can sign up or change your monthly remittance or complete a credit card donation by contacting Lori in the office.

HSLC Dec 31, 2021

Income Statement

1	Budget Income	\$355,805		Designated Income	\$ 34,181
2				<i>Internal</i>	\$ 27,865
3	Budget Expenses			<i>External</i>	\$ 6,316
4	<i>Worship</i>	\$ 16,380		Designated Paid	\$ 28,893
5	<i>Witness</i>	\$ 1,652		<i>Internal</i>	\$ 27,865
6	<i>Staff</i>	\$231,276		<i>External</i>	\$ 1,028
7	<i>Education</i>	\$ 3,015			
8	<i>Property</i>	\$ 53,336		Designated Surplus*	\$ 5,288
9	<i>Service</i>	\$ 36,910			
10	<i>Support</i>	\$ 7,179		Current Surplus	\$ 11,345
11	Total	\$349,748			
12					
13	Net Budget Income	\$ 6,057			

*Designated surplus on the income statement is expected to equal zero, since all external designated donations are paid to the external agencies at year end, and all internal designated surpluses are transferred to the balance sheet as "payable items". See the Cash Flow from Operating Activities to examine the change in internal designated funds, which are listed as "payable".

\$5,288 Designated Surplus is due to current year income, net of expenses, earned in the Endowment fund of \$288 plus \$5,000 designated offering towards the Endowment fund.

Balance Sheet

14	CURRENT ASSETS			LIABILITY	
15	Petty Cash - General	\$ 200		DESIGNATED GIFTS PAYABLE	
16	Short Term Investment	\$ -		Designated Gifts (Internal)	\$ 52,833
17	Bank Operating-CIBC	\$ 70,701		Designated Gifts (external)	\$ -
18	CEWS Income	\$ -			
19	GST Paid & Receivable	\$ 490		TOTAL GIFTS PAYABLE	
20	Donations Receivable	\$ 4,738		Total Accounts Payable	\$ -
21	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 76,129		Total Employee Remissions Payable	\$ 1,343
22				Total Long Term Debt	\$266,995
23	FIXED ASSETS			TOTAL LIABILITY	\$321,171
24	Fixed Assets	\$ -		EQUITY	
25	Undesignated Savings	\$ 1		SURPLUS	
26	Reserve Fund	\$ -		Accumulated Surplus	(\$243,148)
27	Endowment Fund	\$ 13,238		Current Surplus	\$ 11,345
28	TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	\$ 13,239		TOTAL SURPLUS	(\$231,803)
29					
30				TOTAL EQUITY	(\$231,803)
31					
32	TOTAL ASSET	\$ 89,368		LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 89,368

Cash Flow from Operating Activities

33	Net Income (loss)	\$11,345
Adjustments to reconcile net income to cash provided by operating activities		
Decrease (increase) in operating assets		
34	CEWS Income receivable	\$3,895
35	GST Paid and Receivable	\$302
36	Donations Receivable	(1,977)
37	Undesignated Savings	\$0
38	Reserve Fund	\$0
39	Endowment Fund	(\$6,288)
Increase in operating liabilities		
40	Mortgage Reduction Payable	\$0
41	Renovation Fund Payable	\$533
42	Book Registry Payable	\$0
43	Memorial Fund Payable	(\$2,103)
44	Altar Guild Fund Payable	\$326
45	Library Payable	(\$19)
46	Children's Ministry Payable	(\$26)
47	Youth (Projects) Payable	\$326
48	FLIP-YngAdultLeadership Payable	\$12,500
49	Parish Pantry Payable	\$351
50	Pastor's Discretionary Payable	\$140
51	Other Gifts Payable	(\$4,655)
52	Wind Power Payable	\$0
53	Fitness Program Payable	\$0
54	Refugee Fund Payable	\$1,150
55	Social Justice Payable	\$200
56	Table Fund Payable	\$0
57	Accrued Liabilities	\$0
58	Employee Remissions Payable	(\$256)
59	ELCIC Insurance Payable	\$168
60	Mortgage Payable	(\$11,374)
61	Government Loan	\$20,000
62	Damage Deposit Payable	\$0
63	Net cash provided by operating activities	\$24,578
64	Increase (Decrease) in Cash	\$24,578
65	Cash at Beginning of period	\$46,123
66	Cash at End of Period	\$70,701

Designated Income Report (All funds have been forwarded)

67	Lutheran Campus Ministry Received	\$110
68	CLWR Received	\$818
69	On Eagles' Wings Received	\$0
70	Mission with El Salvador	\$0
71	Lutheran Theological Seminary SK	\$0
72	Edmonton Gleaners Association	\$100
73	Endowment Fund Interest Income	\$5,288
74	Total External Designated Gifts Received and Paid	\$6,316

Internal Payable Balance Report (these amounts are available for program spending)

75	Mortgage Reduction Payable	\$37
76	Renovation Fund Payable	\$533
77	Book Registry Payable	\$115
78	Memorial Fund Payable	\$12,180
79	Altar Guild Fund Payable	\$365
80	Library Payable	\$252
81	Children's Ministry Payable	\$1,566
82	Youth (Projects) Payable	\$5,001
83	FLIP-YngAdultLeadership Payable	\$12,500
84	Parish Pantry Payable	\$8,358
85	Pastor's Discretionary Payable	\$4,299
86	Other Gifts Payable	\$401
87	Wind Power Payable	\$0
88	Fitness Program Payable	\$666
89	Refugee Fund Payable	\$4,207
90	Social Justice Payable	\$2,353
91	Designated Gifts (Internal)	\$52,833

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

	Baptized	Confirmed
1. Membership as of December 31, 2020	656	518
2. New members received during 2021		
a. <i>By baptism: children</i>	7	
b. <i>By baptism: adults</i>	1	1
c. <i>By affirmation of faith from responsibility / adherent list</i>	6	5
d. <i>By transfer from ELCIC member congregations</i>	7	6
e. <i>By transfer/affirmation of faith from Anglican or other Lutheran congregations</i>	0	0
f. <i>By affirmation of faith from non-Lutheran congregations</i>	0	0
g. <i>Statistical adjustment</i>	0	0
Subtotal: Total members received 2021	21	12
3. Members who affirmed their baptism thru confirmation during 2021		4
4. Members removed during 2021		
a. <i>By death</i>	2	2
b. <i>By transfer to other ELCIC congregations</i>	1	1
c. <i>By transfer to other Lutheran or Anglican congregations</i>	0	0
d. <i>To non-Lutheran congregations</i>	0	0
e. <i>To responsibility list & dropped (inactive)</i>	0	0
f. <i>Statistical adjustment</i>	0	0
Subtotal: Members removed during 2021	3	3
5. TOTAL membership December 31, 2021	674	531¹

a. Total number of Sunday worship services during the year	51
b. Total number of weekday worship services during the year	10
c. Total number of services with Holy Communion	16
d. Average number in attendance at Sunday worship	23

Note: Only 22 Sundays in 2021 offered in-person worship

d. Average number of Sunday worship views on YouTube	108
Note: This number reflects raw viewership data from YouTube and does not account for multiple viewings or multiple persons watching one screen.	

e. As of January 20, 2022, there are 220 subscribers to our YouTube channel.
As of January 31, 2021, there are 165 subscribers to our YouTube channel.

Funerals	9
Weddings	1
Baptisms	8

History of *average weekly attendance for years:

2019 - 107	2014 - 162	2009 - 190	2004 - 217	1999 - 327
2018 - 108	2013 - 164	2008 - 201	2003 - 209	1998 - 329
2017 - 119	2012 - 170	2007 - 209	2002 - 221	1997 - 344
2016 - 146	2011 - 195	2006 - 212	2001 - 226	1996 - 343
2015 - 157	2010 - 193	2005 - 211	2000 - 266	1995 - 334

+estimated figure* calculation based on regular Sunday services, excluding Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services and additional Lenten service

¹ The number of confirmed members is included in the number of baptized, i.e., of this congregation's 674 members, 531 are confirmed.

EDMONTON REGION CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION REPORT

ERCCA Holy Spirit has continued to provide child care to support the families in the community. As of September 2021, we opened an additional room to cater to the kindergarten children who are attending Lendrum School. We are operating 3 rooms accomodating 19 month old munchkins to Kindergarteners. We have grown in numbers, and we also have new educators who have joined the ERCCA team.

We welcomed Angie Mondoy as the director of ERCCA Holy Spirit beginning August 2021. She used to work in other locations helping the leadership team in previous years. She has been working closely with Kate Tran the Assistant Director in the day-to-day operation of the centre.

Here at ERCCA Holy Spirit, we see children as mighty learners, and we value the benefit of outdoor exploration for their development. In July 2021, our playground was completely renovated with the new deck, two sand pits, and the gravel ground for the children to play. We are so grateful with the support from Holy Spirit Lutheran Church on this project to come into fruition. Also, the church's generosity in sharing the gym with us, which allows the team to continue to provide space and time for children to have physical activities on a daily basis.

We pride ourselves on collaborative teamwork with our families through engaging them in monthly activities. Last October 2021, we facilitated a family activity on "Thanksgiving and Sharing." We asked families to bring donations including used winter clothes, non-perishable food items and personal care stuff and donated them to the Edmonton Food Bank.

As we are all relentlessly fighting this global pandemic, the church has been very supportive to ensure that we maintain a safe and healthy environment for everyone. We really appreciate your constant support, and we are looking forward to continuing working with you to strengthen the community.



Angie Mondoy
Holy Spirit Site Director
Edmonton Region Child Care Association
(formerly Greenfield School Age Daycare Association)

MULHURST CAMP REPORT



PO Box 78, Mulhurst Bay, Alberta, T0C 2C0
Phone: 780.389.4355
email: office@mulhurstcamp.ca
www.mulhurstcamp.ca

We have been busy at camp doing a variety of projects covering all facets of Mulhurst Camp. From property to technical updates.

January was busy applying for grants through Canada Summer Jobs and Civil Society. We were able to secure 9 summer staff positions covered by Canada Summer job grants.

In February with the spearheading of Anne Servold, our communication lead, and guidance from the admin team we were able to launch our new Website. Mid-February also led us into the beginning of implementation of campbrain, which is an online registration, hiring portal and data support system. Where we moved camp registration and implemented the opportunity to book the campground online with an integrated payment process.

In March we began the application process for summer staff, we were uncertain if the government was going to allow camps to operate at all but we had hopes of being able to run day camps and proceeded with the hiring process vs closing for the summer months, mid-June they announced that both overnight and day camps were able to operate.

Summer Program Lead was filled by Nick Raaflaub who took on the role for the second year. Our summer staff began last week in June. Our staff consisted of head cook-Nathan Pennie, First Aid provider- Aaron Pennie, counsellors-Nick Pelletier, Lidia Schowalter, and Courtney Aasmen.

July came quickly and we were able to run two successful weeks of day camps, one here at Mulhurst and the other hosted at St. Paul's Ellerslie in Edmonton. We attempted an overnight camp here at Mulhurst for the older youth at the end of August. (We unfortunately cut the week short because of provincial COVID regulations but everyone had a wonderful time and we all look forward to 2022). The summer did end on a great note by celebrating the camp and it's 75 years. We had over 150 attendees throughout the weekend. People came for the day and others stayed for the weekend utilizing the campground, cabins, and Eden lodge. The weather was beautiful, and the company was even more beautiful. Families enjoyed slip n slide and field games, bible study and campfire, meals and beverages. It was a blessed weekend. The summer staff and some dedicated volunteers pulled out all stops to make it memorable.

Due to Government regulations this past year we have not been able to utilize our beautiful facilities to their full potential, in September we made the decision to operate following the REP (Restrictions Exemption Program) implemented by our Government, with the health and safety of guests always being our first concern.

Since the beginning of September, we have had three quilting groups renting our facilities. Our hopes are that the New Year brings new opportunities for rentals and social gatherings we have such a wonderful site here to share with everyone to come and enjoy what we have to offer, a place of peace, solitude and connection to nature.

Our short-term campground and Seasonal Sites were busy throughout the camping season. Starting in May all the way through to the end of September. The campground and seasonals are what have kept our camp able to stay afloat.

What I see for 2022 is a strong focus on finishing our lodge and growing our programming. I see our main mission for Mulhurst Camp as a place to gather. Building a strong program will require a group of dedicated individuals with a desire to put Mulhurst Camp on the map for families, children and youth to come and experience what Mulhurst is, and draw people in. Because everyone has been in uncertain camp times for two summers now, I hope we can cultivate some certainty that Mulhurst is where they want to be.

Sheryl Stone
Executive Director
Mulhurst Camp

KURIAKOS REPORT



Sylvan Lake Lutheran Bible Camp Association
5-39317 Range Road 24
Lacombe County AB T4E 2R7
403.746.2702
www.kuriakos.ab.ca

This summer and fall have breathed life back into our buildings and site. Our summer team was amazing at hosting campers and camp-grounders, and they created new opportunities for joining the community at Kuriakos. Then at Thanksgiving, we finally got the party we've been waiting for! A year older, we celebrated our 91st Anniversary and joined in gratitude for the experiences we have shared here. With everyone pitching in, it was a perfect event for a place that is based on community!

Get involved! visit kuriakos.ab.ca

- Let neighbours and friends know about the great community at Kuriakos
- Join the SHOUT OUT Team to champion Kuriakos in you congregation
- Volunteer for a Service Project or Committee
- Donate items for auction at Kuriakos Gathers Together, and join us for dinner on April 30.

2021 in REVIEW:

This year, we successfully hosted summer, retreat, and school programs with appropriate precautions... plus our new slate of online offerings.

- 6 monthly Bible Study series with local and regional leaders.
- Summer offerings for all ages, mostly in small groups at the Wilderness Site.
- New Community Camping program, providing "campground" rentals and activities.
- 90th Anniversary Celebrations at Kuriakos Gathers Together (online) and Thanksgiving (in-person). Raised nearly \$80,000 for our Anniversary fund.
- Successful and busy fall school season, despite challenges in hiring internationally.
- **View our Courier for more updates and messages from staff** www.kuriakos.ab.ca/about/contact-us, scroll to Kuriakos Courier

We're delighted to announce we have hired Amber Allen as our Registrar and Hospitality Manager. Our Association continues to be served by Kendra as Program Director, Kelly as Property Manager, Paul as Assistant Director, and Rev. Art as Executive Director.

2021 Membership Partners - 15 Members - 5

Many congregations provide financial support as part of their annual budgets or through special gifts. Program revenue covers roughly 40% of the cost of hosting campers. This is a wonderful opportunity to bless kids and families in need, giving them the best week of their year. If your congregation is able to make a donation or finance a local Campership Fund (\$23k in 2019), please contact the office.

Volunteer Support

Our community depends on volunteer involvement. We benefited from 147 volunteers offering over 3200 hours! This includes nearly 500 hours for our governance Board and Committees, plus 1500 on Property projects and 1200 in support of programs.

AGM: The 2021 financial review will be completed and ready for the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 2:30 pm, March 26, 2022 @ Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (40 Holmes Street, Red Deer). Virtual attendance is encouraged (and may be the only option!)

FINANCES: The tentative budget for 2022 proposes an annual operational revenue of \$694,795. As with other organizations, COVID-19 has had severe impacts on our budget (as reflected in the revenue below). Fortunately, a combination of government loans and grants, plus careful management, staffing changes, and the generosity of our community, has stabilized our operations. However, 2022 will continue to be challenging as we work toward re-opening our programs and facilities.

Looking ahead to 2022

- Community Camping – Book a tent or RV campsite at Kuriakos for your family! Available on select weekends in the summer.
- Leadership Development – FREE online program for young adults from January to May. Join a dynamic group!
- Online Bible Studies for adults (Jan/Feb session can still be joined, and more sessions coming through the spring and next fall.
- Kuriakos Gathers Together Fundraiser. Join us in-person or online on April 30th for our annual celebration and auction.
- Family Camps (3 in July and August). NEW flexible pricing! Come for 1 day or stay for the whole week. Perfect for Grandparent, large/busy families, or folks who have limited time.
- Partner and Member Congregation support. Visit <https://kuriakos.ab.ca/about/congregations>. Consider promoting a Kuriakos retreat as a congregational event.
- Keep Our Programs Working: We appreciate referrals of summer staff, SITS (age 14-16), STANDS (age 16-18), GAPS (age 18+), Interns, spring and fall programmers, nurses, and resource people. Apply online or email kendra@kuriakos.ab.ca for more info.

God's Blessings,
Rev. Art Weiss, Executive Director

HASTINGS LAKE LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP REPORT



135 – 51268 Range Road 204
Sherwood Park, AB T8G 1E9
www.hastingslake.com

Greetings from Hastings Lake Lutheran Bible Camp, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Covid 19 made 2021 another challenging year for our Camp ministry to *Make Christ Known*.

Early in the year, all at Camp events were canceled, and our AGM in May was held by Zoom, as Covid restrictions prevented large gatherings from happening.

Finally, on June 24th, restrictions loosened up and our Board held their first in-person Board Meeting of 2021 on the deck of the newly built Trinity Lodge. No Zoom, and no electronics were allowed! We were all so thankful as Andrew Carlson, our Camp Director & Sharnelle Umphrey, our Program Director, shared their exciting plans for the upcoming summer.

The program would have extra staff, more cleaning, and everyone would practice all the Covid safety measures that we'd all become accustomed to. We planned for attendance to be 70% of a normal year, and ended the summer at nearly 85%! God kept the Camp gates open for a wonderful eight weeks of Camp, that allowed us to renew acquaintances and enjoy the newly built Trinity Lodge! The new Day Camp VBS Ministry to our Congregations also had a very successful start.

Unfortunately, in September the Delta variant struck, and we had to replace our planned Thanksgiving Celebration with a very cold & windy outdoor campfire. Turkey & all the fixings were replaced with cocoa & cookies. Still, more than 100 people showed up with warm smiles on their cold faces.

October saw us try two mini-banquets in our new Trinity Lodge and they were a big hit, despite the constraints of Covid. I'm hoping we'll see more of those! In November, we had our second Hastings Lights, and it was also a great success.

Financially, group rentals were only about a third of normal volumes, as rental groups remained cautious. Donations were also down from normal years. However, both were offset by generous bequests and Government funding, which combined with careful planning and cost controls, meant we were able to end the year with only a small financial loss.

As I write this in the middle of the Omicron wave, it looks like the uncertainties of Covid will make 2022 another financially challenging year. The highest inflation factor in years means substantial increases in our costs, and corresponding increases in our 2022 registration fees. As we all know, Covid waves come quickly and unexpectedly,

yet we need to commit to hiring staff months in advance of the summer program. We go forward in faith, trusting God (Mark 11:22-24).

At our AGM in May of 2021, we voted to change the timing of our AGMs going forward, to be in February, and this year's AGM is planned for Sunday, February 27th, 2022 at Rez Church in Camrose. We are planning for a hybrid in person and by web conference, hoping that we'll be able to meet in person, but planning for the eventuality that we may not. Please plan to attend this AGM as we discuss the future of Noah's Ark, our oldest and much loved building at the Camp.

I also want to make you aware of the wonderful year-round conference facilities that we now have at Hastings Lake. Our Solomon's Lodge (built in 2014) and Trinity Lodge (built in 2020) may be rented individually or together. They combine for 4 meeting rooms, 2 kitchens, 13 bedrooms (59 pillows), and 6 washrooms (2 are handicapped). Consider planning a full weekend at Hastings and include things like cross country skiing, nature walks, etc. for your council, youth or family retreats.

Hastings Lake would like to thank all congregations and individuals for their continued prayers and financial support towards our important ministry. Should you wish to further support our Camp by volunteering as a board or committee member, please let us know. We welcome you!

In His Service,
Roger Osness, Board Chair

BISHOP'S AGM LETTER

January 2022

Beloved of God,

May grace and peace be yours in abundance (1 Peter 1:2a).

I send you greetings in the Name of the One who is the light of the world, Jesus our Lord, as you gather for your Annual General Congregational Meeting. When you gather know that I am filled with gratitude to God for you; that I am thankful for our partnership in the gospel; and, that you continue to be in my prayers as I know I remain in yours.

This COVID-era has been a time of liminal space. The word "liminal" refers to a threshold; it is a word used to describe that which exists at the threshold, the border, between one thing and another.

You, as lay leaders, rostered leaders, congregations and ministries, have navigated these challenging times with perseverance, compassion, and hope. You have worked hard to ensure that your communities would be sustained and encouraged during these times. You have found ways to stay in touch, to communicate with one another, often in new and unexpected ways.

This threshold time has brought with it new understandings and learnings, changed attitudes, a re-assessing of what we should be about, treasuring some things and perhaps setting others aside. But even aside from COVID, for many years now, the church has been living in a liminal space, seeking to discern God's activity among us, in our communities, out there in our neighbourhoods. There are new opportunities and possibilities before us, including recommitting to a missional model of listening, discerning, experimenting, reflecting, and learning, while continuing to ask the questions: where is God in our neighborhood? our community? our world? And equally important: how might we join God in God's mission?

Creativity, ingenuity, openness, support, encouragement, trust, community.

When you gather, you will be making decisions about your priorities for ministry. You will be adopting budgets that enable ministry that joins in God's mission of reconciliation in the world. You will be supporting your partners in ministry – the rostered ministers of this Synod, and especially those who serve among you as they, first and foremost, seek to equip you for the work of ministry: the building up of the Body of Christ.

Joining God's mission means that your ministry is among the people with whom you live and move and have your being. Your ministry is done each day in the living out of your baptismal identity as God's beloved children through your service in word and deed.

Ministry continues beyond the neighborhood and congregation through the many faces of the church and many facets of its ministries: our Synod and its staff, our National Church expression, the Lutheran World Federation, and our Companion Synod – The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia.

As you gather be sure to join others across the Synod as you:

Receive and share the 2022 Synod Narrative Budget. I encourage you to share the brief Narrative Budget prepared in two formats for your use, hard copy text and video format

Review the Synod Council Meeting "Talking Points" (<https://albertasynod.ca/synod-council-highlights/>)

*Subscribe to our Synod's e-mail newsletter: Wednesday's Word, Subscribing is easy on our Synod's website
Participate in learning and conversation the second Thursday (noon-1pm) of each month through Synod
Connect, and/or the Rostered Leaders Zoom Gathering the first and third Wednesdays of each month, and/or
the Lay Leaders Zoom Gathering the first Tuesday evening of each month.*

Perhaps at this year's Annual General Meeting you might reflect, name and give thanks for the gifts and mission into which God has invited you and your congregation. Consider taking a few moments in small groups to listen to each other and then share with all gathered reflections on the following:

Share about a time or situation when you or your congregation recently experienced God's love.

What have we learned in this liminal time about what is important in our life together as the body of Christ?

As you gather, I ask you to prayerfully consider forwarding a tithe (1/10th) of your annual income as a congregation as your minimal offering for Benevolence for the ministry of the Synod and through the Synod to the wider Church. Some congregations have exceeded this mark already, but I would encourage all congregations to set this goal.

Thank you for your witness to patient trust in God and to sacrificial, cruciform love for your neighbors.

Know that I continue to be inspired and excited by the creative ways in which you have proclaimed the Gospel, offered pastoral care, knit together the body of Christ, and served the neighbor in our current reality.

Continue to be humble and gentle with one another. Honor each other. Make space for lament. Welcome moments of joy. Help each other live into hope. Learn from this journey in the coronavirus wilderness and let the learning lead us forward. Trust that God is at work in this time and look for the new things God is doing even now.

Know that you are held in prayer.

Most importantly, know that God is with you and even now is planning and nourishing seeds of resurrection life.

My support, prayers, and thanks accompany you. May God bless us and strengthen us to be the church we are called to be.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).

In Christ Jesus-
Shalom,
+The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



Spirit-Led Leadership Hope-Filled Discipleship Innovative Tradition Collaborative Partnerships

Strategic Focus - Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

2019 – 2022

(updated October 2021)



Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

The Church We and Others Need

The church is needed, now more than ever. While the statistics point to a secularization of our society, the truth is the majority of Albertans and Edmontonians identify themselves as believers. Loneliness, hopelessness and lack of community are on the rise. Brokenness and despair arise from many influences and factors including economic hardship, loss of family and community, addiction and other influences. People are searching and hoping for meaningful living and for ways to make meaningful contributions to humanity.

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church has grown into a welcoming and inclusive community. Continuing in the work God has gifted to us, we seek to enter into a growth and discovery mode, preparing our church to be the home for those who are not yet here. As we embark on a journey of discovery we look to these guiding principles:

Guiding Principles:

1. This is God's church. We understand that God is alive and well, guiding us in the ministry we undertake. As such, it is important to us to faithfully listen to God, which includes listening to one another as a community. Because we have faith, we are inspired to go out and join in God's work.
2. God calls us to continual reform. In love, we are patient, kind and grace-filled with one another as we discern and respond to God's call.
3. Let's "over pray" instead of over think. Let's err to the side of action and experimentation. There is always something to learn.

Our mission

Steeped in faith, with a prayer on our lips, we are intrepid and relentless in our discovering and building the church we and others need.

We aim to grow into this mission by being:

- warmly welcoming,
- messengers about who we are,
- eager to share, invite, grow, and
- ready to respond to God's will with our approach, programming, and path.

Holy Spirit has so much going for it and every person here is a gifted and an important part of the community. We are grounded, but not restricted, by a rich, historical foundation. Trusting in who we are and in God's presence, we will learn to step into the world and learn about God with intentionality. We give ourselves permission to take chances without running the risk of taking chances on the message or falling into a false gospel.

Our Strategic Focus is to concentrate on:

- 1) **Participation.** Participation is about being open to the gifts of one another, making room for all to share as they are able, growing in our faith as a community, and growing closer together as a community. Each person among us is important, valued and encouraged to receive and give of who they are in order that we might grow into a community of God's heart.
- 2) **Witness.** God has given us an awesome ministry and we hope to build and expand the presence, brand, and awareness of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. Faithful to the work God has given, we will witness in our greater community, spreading the word that Holy Spirit Lutheran Church is a place of welcome and inclusion, of growing together in faith, and creating positive change in our world.
- 3) **Growth.** Numbers tell one part of our story. As faithful disciples, we seek to learn and increase our attendance, membership, and giving. We intend this to be a natural outcome from the above two goals.