

# **2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONGREGATION**

**American Lutheran Church of Sun City  
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**Information Session on the 2020 Annual Report  
Thursday, January 28, 2021, 3:00 p.m.  
Available through Zoom or Zoom Conference Call**

**Terri Polk, President  
Sharon Grambow, Incoming President  
Congregation & Council**

## **Mission Statement**

*“To proclaim the love of Jesus Christ,  
invite others to participate in our faith community,  
and be a blessing to all in word and deed.”*

# Agenda for Informational Session on 2020 Annual Meeting Process

Call to Order  
Opening Devotions  
Introductions  
President's Report  
Senior Pastor's Report  
Treasurer's Report  
Adoption of the 2021 Budget  
Introduction of Candidates for 2021 Council  
Election of 2021 Council  
Benediction  
Adjournment

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a Year! 2020 started with a sense of excitement, challenges, opportunities and what we now might call “normalcy”. American Lutheran Church had a very successful “Walk for Water” with many sponsors, walkers, and volunteers and with a rewarding outcome.... raising money to build a well on the Navajo reservation. We are continuing our partnership with them, helping to provide clothing and food. We also continue our partnership with Pan De Vida, continuing our scholarship program with them and eventually re-starting our tutoring and Bible Studies program, with more ideas in the works.

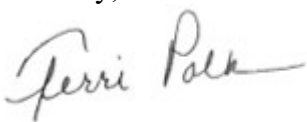
This was a year that came with many “unexpected” changes. The coronavirus struck and it hit us hard. All of a sudden there were no services, no church activities, no face-to-face meetings, no gatherings.... all in an effort to curtail the spread of the virus. How did we respond? We are a faith community and have always depended on seeing and visiting with each other. We love sharing ideas, greeting others, discussing issues and doing this as we share FOOD! Now, there was no longer this opportunity. We prayed and we took a deep breath; we leaped into the realm of the online world. We began slowly... conference calls and then ZOOM meetings, online worship, midweek messages, incorporating music into our services, a cautious reopening...everything done with an abundance of concern for our congregation. Not everything went perfect. We know we have gaps, so we continue to improve by better utilizing the Neighborhood Groups and phone “Connections”. We had glitches, but we did our best and will continue to improve. I am proud of that!

I am also delighted that we kicked off our Stewardship appeal, “Sparked by the Spirit”. This is a difficult and challenging time for many; yet we asked you to make a statement of intent....and you are responding. Thank you for taking this “leap of faith” for our ministry initiatives at American Lutheran Church.

Over the last 3 years, as a member of Council and now winding down my year as President, I want to thank all of the Pastors...they are a great team and I have appreciated their wisdom and commitment. The ALC staff are extraordinary. We are now fully staffed and work as a team. The staff has given guidance and support to me and truly practice our Mission Statement “to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ, invite others to participate in our faith community, and be a blessing to all in word and deed”. Our volunteers have been exceptional...they take work home, answer phone calls, transcribe services, reach out to others, clean, greet, register, and usher. They read, sing, play music and work on property and grounds....and much more. And of course, our ALC Church Council! They are truly a remarkable group. I have enjoyed working with each one. They are a hard-working and dedicated group. I am happy to say we do not always agree on things...we can have a lively discussion, but we all respect each other. We are all working toward our Mission and trying to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.

I will miss this great Leadership Team, but I will stay involved. I will serve on the Stephen Ministry Leadership Team as their Training Coordinator. I will continue writing articles. And then, this brings me to thank all of you. I have been delighted to serve as your Council President and have been humbled by this experience. This opportunity has taught me to be comfortable in prayer, to myself as well as praying out loud. AND, you have encouraged me and brought forth a gift I never knew I had... a “gift” of writing and inspiration. Thank you for helping me to realize this gift! Thank you, God, for helping me to discover this!

Sincerely,



Terri Polk, ALC Council President

# SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

What a year!

As I reflect upon this past year of ministry, I give thanks to God for our congregation. Our mission is to **Proclaim** the love of Jesus Christ, **Invite** others to participate in our faith community and be a **Blessing** to all in word and deed. The people of American Lutheran Church are a faithful and resilient people and demonstrated this in a year like no other in 2020.

2020 was forecasted to be a year of “20/20 Vision,” a wordplay on the clarity of vision we expected would arise from discerning God’s call leading to our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025. This past year was comprised of many things, but clarity was not among them. The apostle Paul shared this thought:

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*“Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.”*

*1 Corinthians 13:12 (NLT)*

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With the pandemic concerns surrounding us, we did not “see with perfect clarity or know completely.” However, we were unified in our faith that God knows us and loves us completely through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and encouragement of the Holy Spirit.

As COVID-19 came to increased awareness last February, in-person worship was suspended mid-March through the end of August. It’s stunning to recall this unprecedented action to preserve human life and prevent an overwhelming surge of sickness upon the healthcare system. This was a special burden upon our congregation as ALC parishioners love to worship together. I recall my fledgling attempts to present an online worship service! What a learning curve but what an awesome team to work with; Linda Shirck and Janet MacDonald with guidance from Rick Lamb, recording engineer without peer! Online worship will be a vital part of our ministry for the foreseeable future as it unites people across the country & community.

I loved how we hired Dr. James Gerber, DMA, to join our congregation as Organist & Worship Coordinator. While it would have been reasonable to postpone any decision until the vision became clearer, through extensive interviews it became clear Dr. James should be hired. What a marvelous addition to our team and what a bright future awaits his music ministry!

Clearly, Terri Polk possesses a wonderful dedication & engagement as our Council President. She is a trusted partner in ministry and the Council worked diligently together in challenging situations. Clearly, our Church Staff is consistently striving to work together for the sake of this church, and we are blessed by their commitment to one another and our members.

Our Church will always have intriguing ministry challenges in front of us and 2021 is no different. We will address questions on how best to demonstrate joyful stewardship, how to evangelize effectively, how to strengthen our caring connections with one another and how to deepen our spiritual growth in Bible study, prayer and loving service. This one thing I know- the members of ALC are generous people in sharing their time, talents, testimony and treasure.

The generous response to this past Thanksgiving service is an example of the spirit of our congregation. With pandemic concerns, we did not gather in-person for our Thanksgiving service. While it was an invigorating online service, I was concerned if we would still contribute generously to the West Valley Community Food Pantry serving from St. John’s Lutheran Church in Glendale. What a response! Over \$5,500 was raised, eclipsing past year’s giving! I am so proud of American Lutheran Church!

I am also grateful for our church; thank you for your compassionate support during my extended illness in February and March and your sympathy extended to Debbie and me upon my Mom's death in March. Your words and actions meant so much, a true reflection of our mission to be a blessing in word & deed.

So, as you review the annual report, keep in mind that we look forward in faith, clearly secure in the knowledge that God's love is real, present and available for everyone in Christ. Focused on shared ministry goals, we will demonstrate an enthusiastic response to God's love. For this, I am proud and grateful to serve God with you in this time and place.

Love,



Pastor Lowell

## CARE MINISTRY REPORT

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*“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.”  
1 Peter 4:10*

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It is with love, care and a serving spirit that the Care Ministry Team identifies and responds to the needs of the ALC congregational members. The partners of this ministry have greatly expanded during this year of the COVID pandemic. All was greatly limited by not having face to face visitation, communion distribution and basic communication concerning care needs. The Pastors of ALC and Lori Keller, the Wellness Coordinator, had specific duties in making visitations, identifying, and providing spiritual, emotional and community support services. This effort was enhanced by the ALC office staff. Each member was deeply committed to the care and support of the Care Ministry program. Ministry support was given from the Church Council, volunteers, and members of the congregation. Prayer groups were involved in supporting those in illness, care, and crisis. The COVID year brought forth new challenges to support God's people.

All visitation and group gatherings of the Care Ministry Program were greatly challenged by the safety rules and requirements. The New Day grief group, the residential programs visited for communion and worship services, hospitals, hospice programs, eucharistic and Stephen Ministry visitation were greatly restricted or shut down. Basic safety rules of contact and quarantining greatly decreased the personal approach that is a cornerstone of our ministries. Even in these difficult times, creativity and care was provided by the leaders, service providers and staff. They made connections by phone, audio devotional gatherings, window visitations, letters, notes and cards.

The Stephen Ministry Program, provides care from 52 active Stephen Ministers. The faithful service to the Caregivers has been exceptional. Six additional Stephen Ministers were commissioned in December. The Ervin Langholz Memorial, recently established by the Langholz family, has provided for the sending of two Stephen Ministers for online National Certification. The Stephen Ministry leadership team is already planning to meet 2021 with great excitement, supporting new program development to meet the challenges ahead.

ALC is blessed to have so many volunteers, staff and clergy that have come forth to be involved in the beautiful ministries that our Lord has blessed. All have joined together in a “partnership in ministry”, guided by the Holy Spirit, to meet the needs of today and tomorrow in an ever-changing world. Blessed to be a blessing to those in the love and care of our Lord. Faithful to the call of “Here am I, Send me”. Peace to all through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Gary R. Ulrich  
Pastor of Care

# PASTOR OF SPIRITUALITY AND CARE

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*“For even the Son of Man did not come expecting to be served by everyone, but to serve everyone, and to give his life as the ransom price in exchange for the salvation of many.”*  
*Mark 10:45*

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I have now been at American Lutheran Church (ALC) for over a year. As with everything else time goes so quickly. As I reflect on my decision to come here to serve, I have no regrets. Each day offers opportunities to grow spiritually as I reach out to others inside and outside the walls of ALC.

The pandemic has made everything so different but with God’s help we are taking it one day at a time. I am getting better acquainted with parishioners and trying very hard to remember their names. I used to say I recognize faces even though I do not always have instant recall of names but now all that has changed. With everyone with masks on, it is often hard to recognize even people I know. Name tags are so helpful and appreciated. I always enjoy seeing Jesus in the eyes of my brothers and sisters in Christ and masks cannot hide that love.

After using five different addresses in one year, including ALC, I decided to sell my home I built on a lake in NE in 2015 and buy a small home near ALC. Because I love the water, I decided to buy in the Ventana Lake Community, so I can walk my rescue dog, Tinker Bell, around the many lakes. While I cannot ride Annie, my horse, around the lakes, Pat Kirk, owner, makes sure I always find wonderful trails elsewhere. Downsizing has been good for me as I realize less is often more and my need to possess has become very limited.

My days at ALC continue to be full as we expand the ministry that I am engaged in and explore a variety of possibilities. In February, I am beginning my training for Stephen Ministry on Zoom. While I am disappointed to not be able to attend in person at a training location with more trainees, I am grateful I will be available here to stay involved in the Spirituality and Care Ministry.

The most difficult part of our ministry now is the grief of all the goodbyes. The goodbyes come more often as COVID takes its toll in our midst. Each day we are on high alert as we try our best to protect ourselves and others. As people express their different opinions about how to deal with the Pandemic, we must respect one another and follow Synod and CDC guidelines. Churches will always have their agreement and disagreements, but we must stand together so that we can grow stronger in unity and not division. I live with the hope that we will be an even stronger church body as we grow through our struggles and challenges of this dark time.

We are to serve as a loving example in our community so that others will know we are Christians by our love. As I continue to serve at ALC, I ask for your prayers and support so that we can all make a positive difference in what we do and who we are.

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Judith

## ALC WELLNESS COORDINATOR REPORT

I work alongside the Care Ministry Pastors to help provide:

- Service referrals
- Hospital and post-hospital follow-ups
- Rehab visits and follow-ups
- Education in regard to wellness needs
- Train and support volunteers in first aid and injury
- Pastoral assistance with communion to parishioners

- Monthly blood pressure screenings
- Helping Hands referrals
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Eucharistic and Stephen Ministry Visitations

In the months of June, July, and August, I work from our home in Wisconsin, via email and phone contact. I keep in daily contact with the Church and the Pastors providing referrals and phone contacts as needed.

Lori Kellar  
ALC Wellness Ministry

## **COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE**

### **ORGANIST REPORT**

2020 has been an exceptionally challenging year for all of us. The ongoing spread of COVID-19 has upended every activity we would normally be engaged in within the life of the Church and this congregation. What an extraordinary time for me to begin my worship and music ministry here with all of you.

Despite the many difficulties, there have been many blessings and opportunities for growth. Our congregation has needed to ramp up our use of technology: providing worship experiences online, holding Bible studies through conference calls, and conducting meetings through Zoom. Our worship services during this time have been abbreviated and we have needed to be creative in developing online and in-person worship experiences within this context that are meaningful. Similarly, many aspects of our music ministry program have been engaged in different ways: our virtual choir presentations as well as small vocal ensembles, instrumentalists, and our bell choir have worked to prepare recorded music that is offered to enrich our services. I personally have become more comfortable preparing music for recordings and developing skills for video and audio editing. This continues to be a time when we “do” church differently.

We look forward with faith and hope to the time when we all may safely gather for worship services with a full liturgy, robust singing, and special musical offerings. We anticipate hosting the many concerts here as we have in the past. We just need to be patient for a little while longer.

Meanwhile, we are living our congregational mission in a new and expanded way. Our online services reach not only our local community, but are available globally; people from places near and far watch our services to hear the message of Christ’s love for them. They often share these services with friends and family. People from all over are becoming engaged with American Lutheran Church, and we have been a blessing and source of comfort to them. I am looking forward to the opportunities, known and unknown, available to us in 2021, continuing our faith journey together, and serving with all of you.

As a faith community, we have a commitment to one another  
to show our love by helping keep each other safe and healthy.

James Gerber, DMA  
Organist and Worship Coordinator

# CHOIR DIRECTOR REPORT

Throughout 2020 our Celebration Choir grew to a vibrant membership of 62. We rehearsed Thursday afternoons and led worship services on Sunday mornings and once a month on Saturdays. In January we presented a Twelfth Night Concert along with all ALC music ensembles to a full Sanctuary. The musicians were then served a lovely dinner catered by Jane and Ron. In February we closed the WNA series with a lively hymn sing. Linda Shirck and Glenn Henriksen served as accompanists. The choir loft was full, and the Sanctuary was filled with members, guests, and magnificent singing. In addition to regular worship services the choir participated in the prayer themed Lenten services. Ah-Men Singers, Grace Notes and Saturday singers rehearsed weekly. We abruptly stopped rehearsals and worship before we could journey from Palm Sunday/Holy week to Easter and beyond. We ventured into the realm of online worship to continue to stay in contact with our membership. We continued to refine our online presence with the help of Rick and Diana Lamb.

I spent June, July and August attending many virtual conventions, workshops, and seminars on every aspect of producing virtual choir (at no cost to ALC). Through the American Choral Directors Association and AZ ACDA, I stayed in constant contact with other choral professionals on the best way to proceed with singing in person and online as the environment constantly changed. My children supplied equipment and practical technological help needed to start production of Virtual Choir. We are grateful for the technology that enables virtual choir anthems and slide shows. I served as cantor, and continued worship planning with Pastors, Linda Shirck and now James Gerber. We stayed completely committed to keeping our ALC community and choir connected and engaged, safely praising God through music and worship, and continuing to care for each other.

I want to express a deep debt of gratitude to our choir members for their commitment to each other, this church and singing to the glory of God. Thank you to: Carie and Pete Oppedahl for accurate choir attendance and communion records; to Katie Zimmerman for coordinating the monthly birthday celebrations; to our music librarians Shari Schmidt and Kathleen Helm; to our instrumentalists Jackie Huget, John Withart, George Zoske and the Cristo Handbells, and Dan Reed; to our reader in residence, Bryan Cooper-Keeble; to Linda Shirck organist, accompanist, and dear friend; and to my new friend and colleague, James Gerber. Thank you to all musicians who support and participate in virtual choir and online services. And finally, to our wonderful staff and faithful congregation, thank you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet MacDonald, Choir Director/Worship Planning

## BENEVOLENCE REPORT

The Benevolence Committee had limited meetings due to the COVID-19 virus. The Navajo Walk for Water fundraiser was completed and after many COVID delays the well drilling finally began. The initial \$30,000 goal was exceeded by over \$20,000.

Thanks to the on-going generosity of the members of American Lutheran Church we were able to support the following:

Grand Canyon Synod	\$ 61,000
Pan De Vida Lutheran Church	\$ 24,000
Feed My Starving Children	\$ 8,000
Sun City Posse	\$ 600
Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission	\$ 5,000
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$ 1,000
Spirit in the Desert	\$ 2,500

A big thank you goes to the Benevolence committee members: Bob Rogalski, Judie VanDevere-Stage, Lollie Stevens, Marge Lane, Marilyn Hemen, Marty Livingston and Ann Skidmore for their time and talents.



# EDUCATION AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Education and Evangelism committee is a restart of a former inactive committee. We meet once a month through phone call meetings. The Committee is led by Pete Oppedahl with the following volunteer members: Jim Conrad, Chuck Gerke, Merv and Margaret Nicholls, Jay and Brigitte Walsh, Carie Oppedahl and Pastor Lowell Nelson. Our goal is to reach out to our members and invite others to get acquainted and inform them of our worship services and education studies. Our committee has done this thru phone calls and sending greetings thru the mail. Devotional booklets are distributed to our shut-ins and their friends. Our committee will continue to PROCLAIM, INVITE, and BLESS.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pete Oppedahl

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee hosted coffee hour for January, February and half of March in 2020. Around the middle of March, with the outbreak of COVID-19, the church was forced to close all activities down. These past months have been very difficult for everyone. Hopefully, with the administration of vaccines in the coming months, eventually, we will once again be able to meet for coffee hours and potlucks.

I would like to recognize Ann Skidmore and the Angel Tree Committee for their perseverance in distributing angels, collecting gifts and packing the family bags for the children who benefited from this worthy ministry. ALC and Central Baptist Church have worked together for many years to help make Christmas special for these children who have one parent in prison. This year there were 83 children who received 2 presents each from their incarcerated parent because of your generosity. Thank you to all the ALC members who donated time, talent and funds to this wonderful ministry.

I know we are all missing our times together in fellowship but know that this too shall pass and once this is over, we will really be grateful to be back together in the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall. Until then, I am thankful to all the volunteers who serve on Fellowship all year long in so many ways. You help make American Lutheran a very special place, our church home. We are truly blessed!

Madeline Niccore  
Fellowship Chairperson

## GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

As COVID-19 has effected all of us and delayed our committee meetings in 2020. We did have requests for consideration in 2020 and addressed them. The Bells were cleaned and serviced. The Casavant Organ/Bassoon Relocation is in process, but COVID-19 has interrupted some supplies and work. The Navajo Walk for Water and Reserve Fund for ALC were enhanced by Gifts and Memorials.

The most significant gift is the updating of computers and service for them. That was in the works early in 2020, so fortunately the specifics were known and approved through emails and phone calls. There are no current requests pending. What a world we live in at this time.

Our committee currently consists of Donna Borden, Wally Eklund and Ann Skidmore. We continue to be amazed at your generosity in honor or celebration of family and friends. Thank you, American Lutheran Faith Community.

Ann Skidmore  
Chairperson

# NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS COMMITTEE

These Groups are considered a major contribution to the vibrant health and welfare of ALC. Since the coronavirus outbreak began early in 2020, the Groups have not been meeting in person. Group Leaders have been encouraged to maintain contact with their group members by phone, email and other methods.

Bryan Cooper-Keeble

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee had a very busy 2020. Consisting of ALC members Maryanne Winters, Charles (Chuck) Allis, Dave Hjortland and Sharon Grambow, the Committee began 2020 with a primary goal to fill the vacant position of worship leader at American Lutheran Church (ALC). Although ALC was blessed with strong interim leadership provided by Janet McDonald (choir) and Linda Shirck (organist), it was important for the Committee to find that permanent solution. This process began with first defining what was required in the position. With the assistance and support of our interim leaders Janet and Linda, Senior Pastor Lowell Nelson and other experts in the music/worship field, the Personnel Committee was able to define the roles and responsibilities that resulted in two positions – Choir Director and Worship Coordinator/Organist.

The Committee was pleased to subsequently learn that our Interim Choir Director was interested in the permanent role of Choir Director. After a vetting process that was completed in January, the Committee extended an offer to Janet McDonald for the role of Choir Director for ALC.

In February 2020, the Committee turned its attention to the Worship Coordinator/Organist role and created a Selection Committee to assist in the recruiting process. An exhaustive national search was conducted which even included some international resumes. Interest in ALC was very high. The recruiting process was conducted entirely by video given that COVID 19 had just begun to be a problem and travel was not advisable. Fortunately, the Committee found that there was so much information available to us, including You Tube videos, audio recordings, and Zoom meetings via computer that we could continue successfully with the process.

On May 4, 2020, Dr. James Gerber was offered the position of Worship Coordinator/Organist for ALC. Because ALC was not having in person worship at the time, Dr. James was able to postpone his start date and relocation from Pennsylvania to Phoenix until August 31, 2020.

Other tasks that the Committee completed during 2020 included preparing and presenting a two-day new employee orientation that included information on employee benefits from our provider Portico, the history of ALC and a thorough review of the Employee Handbook. In addition, committee members reviewed all the personnel files to ensure that they were complete with a goal to standardize the files going forward. Dave Hjortland led the process of reviewing the Employee Handbook (version 10) for 2020 and provided updated information to all staff.

During 2020 two staff positions turned over and recruiting efforts resulted in the hiring of a full-time Receptionist and a new Financial Coordinator. Annual performance evaluations were provided to all applicable staff during 2020.

The Committee has set goals for 2021 to create a new hire application form and to finish the review and updates of the remaining position descriptions. I want to extend my gratitude to Council President, Terri Polk, for her participation and guidance to the Committee during the year and to the members for their dedication to the work.

We are led by the Holy Spirit,

Sharon Grambow  
Chairperson

# **PROPERTY AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

For the first time, a line item in the Church's budget was added this year to set aside funds for the newly created Capital Replacement Fund. The fund will provide for the replacement of large expenditure items such as HVAC units as they wear out. Currently, \$15,000 per year is set aside for this purpose.

Maintenance expenditures this year went to roof repair over the Fellowship Hall, HVAC repair, fountain repair, lighting replacement, and audio-visual equipment repair and replacement. Repairs were also undertaken on the hydraulic lift used to reach lights and other equipment in the sanctuary. In addition, since all the bathroom faucets were of a faulty design that either didn't work or wasted water, they were replaced. We also replaced the water filtration system in the Education Rooms A&B with a system that was less expensive to operate. Replacement of the rotting fascia boards on the sanctuary roof, however, was postponed due to lack of funds.

A number of actions were taken to address the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional disinfectant supplies were purchased and used to provide additional cleaning of hard surfaces throughout the campus as well as upholstery in the sanctuary. A hydrostatic fogger was purchased. The carpets were cleaned. A new schedule was set up to disinfect the sanctuary and bathrooms after each service. Elsewhere, plexiglass barriers were constructed where needed, and stands were provided for the extra hand sanitizing stations purchased. Additional signs were also procured. Thank you all who volunteered to help with these activities.

There will be a new property and grounds liaison on the church council in 2021. Please consider contacting him to express your interest in helping the committee as they work to maintain our property and grounds.

# **STEPHEN MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

Stephen Ministry at ALC has been and continues to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. While Stephen Ministers presently cannot gather in person for continuing education and peer support, they do receive a timely inspirational message from our Pastoral Support Coordinator regularly; and peer support contacts have begun again with our peer group facilitators, but individually, not in groups. Most importantly, our Stephen Ministers continue to have regular contact with their care receivers, it's just not in person like it used to be. Instead, we have found many other ways to be in contact, to be a caring presence in someone's life.

ALC and specifically our Stephen Ministry has been designated the recipient of a memorial established by the Langholz family in memory of Pastor Erv Langholz. The first phase of the memorial is being implemented as we make arrangements to have two of our current Stephen Ministers participate in National Leadership Training. They will become part of our Leadership Team. Our own Pastor Judith will also participate in training this year and will become more involved in this phase of Care Ministry.

2020 has been most challenging but the rewards have been great; Stephen Ministry's cup is indeed half full.

# **TRUST COMMITTEE**

The ALC Trust exists to manage the altruistic donations of congregational members. The donors designate several specific programs that the donations should be allocated to. This year the trust donated \$5,000 to the Navajo Walk for Water Project as well as \$1,800 to the Grand Canyon Synod ELCA program 'Stewards for All Seasons.' Bea Hodson's estate donated over \$105,000 to ALC.

There were a number of changes in 2020. Bob Sosa became chairman; Mike House is the new treasurer and Connie Kurth became secretary. Wally Brambilla resigned, and Don Garverick passed away. Otto Imig became a council representative and Ron Prekker became the second council representative. Perc Peckham, Louise Sosa and Darrell Alexander were added to the committee and require congregational approval.

Morgan Stanley has been the investment company used for the ALC trust for the past several years. The financial representative for Morgan Stanley recently resigned and moved to a new investment firm. The committee will need to review the account with the new representatives and obtain recommendations for investing the Bea Hodson donation mentioned above. The committee is also evaluating switching from a brokerage account to a managed account. The suggested advantages are smaller fees and quicker responses when moving money from one investment to another.

The committee is also responsible for the distribution of annual dividends and interest gains as outlined in Distribution of Funds listed below. Some gains were not distributed in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions and/or no demand for designated gains in the specified program. All undistributed funds will be added to the principle.

## **2020 TRUST COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

### **General Summation of Total Account Balances**

Beginning 2020 Total Assets:	\$1,428,494.75
Ending November 2020 Total Assets:	\$1,565,346.43

### **Total Distribution of Funds for 2020**

ALC Care	\$11,150.92
Lutheran Seminary Scholarships	\$6,742.49
Pacific Lutheran Seminary Scholarships	\$6,742.48
ALC Mortgage Reduction (Principal)	\$20,769.87
Pan De Vida Scholarship	\$1,043.00
Pan De Vida Church Support	\$475.49
ACL General Fund	\$2,166.76
ELCA	\$475.49

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE**

2020 started off with such promise! Our WNA programming began – as it has for so many years - in January with 4:30 presentations followed by a catered dinner in the Fellowship Hall and then a 6:00 p.m. program – usually musical. Lenten Services replace the 6:00 programs starting with Ash Wednesday and the Wednesday Night Alive spring program concludes the week before Easter. But it became evident that the coronavirus would impact our programming. We abruptly cancelled the March 18 program and the remaining spring programs. The committee kept meeting, mostly via conference calls and Zoom, to schedule the fall 2020 programs and Gala, hoping that we could resume in the fall. But the pandemic raged on and so the fall 2020 and spring 2021 programs too were cancelled. Wednesday Night Alive programming will resume better than ever in the fall of 2021, God willing!

### **Here are the great WNA programs from 2020:**

- January 8      Program on Sun Health of Sun City, program on Sojourner’s Center, and concert by Dryheat
- January 15    Program on Consumer Scams by the Arizona Attorney General’s Office, program on the Muslim World, and concert by the Rainbow Quartet
- January 22    Program by the Hip Historian, program by Sylvia Nolan, a bestselling Arizona mystery author, and concert by the Dueling Divas
- January 29    Program on Passage of Bills through Congress, program on Benevilla, and concert by the Lord of Life Big Band
- February 5    Program on Israel Today Part 1 and concert by Tremble Clefs, a group composed of those afflicted with Parkinson’s Disease
- February 12   Program on Israel Today Part 2 and piano concert by Glen Henrickson
- February 19   Program on Learning Genealogy, video on the Gospel of Matthew (part 1), and a Congregational Hymn Sing

- February 26 Program on Miracles of 21<sup>st</sup> Century communication and video on the Gospel of Matthew (part 2)
- March 4 Program on Hearing Loss or Memory Decline and video on the Gospel of Matthew (part 3)
- March 11 Program on Desert Caballeros Museum in Wickenburg and video on the Gospel of Matthew (part 4)

## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

American Lutheran Church Women's Ministry provides opportunities for serving the church community through Quilters, Book Club, Memorial Receptions, Missions, and fundraising events such as luncheons and the Holiday Bazaar to support local, national and international charities.

January 2020 started off with a successful author luncheon featuring Arizona Author, Nancy E. Turner. Then, on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, we held our Annual Women's Ministry Faire in the Fellowship Hall between services during Sunday Coffee. It was a time to showcase our programs and projects, as well as to recruit volunteers. We also collected our Love Offering during February.

The arrival of COVID-19 in mid-March totally changed our planned Women's Ministry Calendar and normal fundraising events. Our March 18th Luncheon was postponed as well as other planned events.

In October, we distributed Operation Christmas Child boxes to be filled. In November members returned 100 filled boxes which were sent to children in need. Although our Annual Holiday Bazaar was cancelled, we sold 240 packages of Lefse the weekend before Thanksgiving. And as well, while our fundraising was limited in 2020, we were still able to distribute \$6500 in December to local, national and international charities.

We thank the ALC members for continued support of our Women's Ministry outreach activities. Hopefully, sometime in 2021 we will be able to return to our normal events.

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY TREASURER'S REPORT 2020

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 983.94</b>
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>	
General Offerings.	\$ 20.00
Funerals.	\$ 375.00
Luncheons/Speakers	\$1236.00
Crafts	\$ 30.00
Quilts	\$1600.00
Love Offering	\$3071.00
Raffle	\$ 322.00
Bazaar	<u>\$1628.00</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$8282.00</b>
Carry over	<u>\$ 983.94</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9265.94</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	
Missions	\$5650.00
ELCA-WELCA Phoenix.	\$ 250.00
ELCA-WELCA Chicago.	\$ 500.00
Quilts.	\$ 91.96
Luncheons/Speakers	\$1025.73
Special Gift - Room Dividers	\$ 320.97
Gift	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$8842.66</b>
<b>Balance on Hand, December 31, 2020</b>	<b>\$ 423.28</b>

<b>Disbursements to Missions</b>	
Alleluia Lutheran Church.	\$ 500.00
Dove.	\$ 500.00
Global Health	\$1000.00
Lutheran World Hunger	\$ 500.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 500.00
Mosaic	\$1000.00
St John's West Valley Community Pantry	\$ 700.00
Valley View Food Bank	\$ 700.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$5650.00</b>

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee met several times in the early part of the year, including meeting with members of the Finance Committee of American Lutheran Church (ALC).

We received a copy of the Management Letter generated by a local Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Monica J. Stern, upon completion of her engagement dated January, 2012. The letter cited numerous issues with the accounting systems and records of ALC.

The committee made several requests of the Finance Committee which were in process as of our last meeting.

In the meantime, two members of the Audit Committee made unannounced visits to observe staff in the process of counting, recording and reporting receipts. They reported that the staff did a commendable job and saw no problems with same.

The principal recommendation of the Audit Committee was that a CPA be engaged to conduct an audit of ALC accounting records and financial reports. There has been no such engagement since 2012. We also saw no description of actions taken after receipt of the Management Letter mentioned above. We believe an auditor would be very helpful in developing a plan for internal audits to be conducted during the church year. We have been told the Finance Committee/Council are proceeding on that front.

Respectfully,  
The Audit Committee

### FELLOWSHIP OF FRIENDS

No report submitted.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The ALCSC constitution assigns to the Vice President of the congregation the duty of assembling a nominating committee made up of the Senior Pastor, the Vice President, the outgoing President, and the outgoing members of the council. The following committee members met in November of 2020 and served as the nominating committee for 2021-2022:

Sr. Pastor Lowell Nelson; Terri Polk--Outgoing President; Sharon Grambow--Vice President;  
Debra Hjortland –Treasurer; Phil Miller—Building and Grounds

Each member was asked to recommend 5-7 names to be considered for the upcoming openings on the 2021 council. Due to recent resignations and council member deaths these additional positions were vacant: Worship and Music and Trusts. Many factors were taken into consideration: health, family needs, participation in worship, length of membership, strengths, skills and gifts, and gender. We felt that a balanced mix of both newer and longer-term members, along with a balance of both men and women was important for a representative council. If the nominee accepted the call, she/he was asked to provide a brief bio.

The list of nominees for the following positions are as follows:

Carol Weber - Treasurer

**To Be Determined** - Worship and Music

Charles Allis - Personnel

Donna Borden - WNA

Bill Imig -Trusts (appointed to fill Don Garverick's position this year)

Jane Tschida Olson - Gifts and Memorials

Arvid Peterson - Parish Education and Evangelism

Thank you to those serving on the Nominating Committee and thank you to the nominees for answering the call to serve on church council.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Grambow

Vice President

### 2021 Church Council

	<b><u>Officer Position</u></b>	<b><u>2021 Name</u></b>	<b><u>Remaining Term</u></b>	<b><u>2021 Committee Liaison</u></b>
1	President	Sharon Grambow	2021	Benevolence
2	Vice President	Ron Prekker	2022	Trust
3	Treasurer	Carol Weber	2023	Finance Committee Member
4	Secretary	Rita Van Stelle	2022	At Large
5		To Be Determined	2021*	Worship & Music
6		Bob Bouldin	2021	Finance
7		Bryan Cooper-Keeble	2021	Neighborhood Groups/Stephen Ministry
8		Pete Oppedahl	2022	Property & Grounds
9		Charles Allis	2023	Personnel
10		Arvid Peterson	2023	Parish Education and Evangelism (Publicity with delegation of staff)
11		Bill Imig	2021*	Trust
12		Jan Powell	2021	Women's Ministry
13		Chris Weldon	2022	Fellowship
14		Donna Borden	2023	WNA
15		Jane Tschida Olson	2023	Gifts and Memorials

\*Denotes that nominee is serving out an unfinished term and is able to be re-elected for a full three-year term thereafter.

### **Carol Weber**

I was born and raised in Buffalo, NY. I moved to Michigan in 1975 and worked for Chrysler for 24 years. In 2001, I was laid off from Chrysler and moved to AZ. I started my business in March 2009 after working for AMEX and Robert Half. I have a Master's in Accounting and am an Enrolled Agent which allows me to practice before the IRS. I work mostly with small businesses for accounting and everyone for tax preparation. I assist business clients with all their financial needs including training in Quickbooks, updating files every month, preparing TPT returns, and filing tax returns. I have an office in Surprise and I also provide mobile service for senior citizens who have trouble getting out.

## **Jane Tschida Olson**

Just so you know a little of my history, I was born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota. I lived and raised a family there with my husband, Jerry Tschida, until his retirement. We moved to Pine City, MN on the Snake River.

Jerry passed away in January 2018. Three months later, Jerry Olson, lost his wife, Kay, as well. We attended Grief Support together and just married in July 2020. We summer in Minnesota and winter in Arizona. I have three children and two grandchildren who all live in Minnesota, so Minnesota will always be home.

As to volunteering, among other activities, I was the Confirmation Coordinator at my church in St. Paul for 8 years, a Church Council member at my church in Pine City for a three-year term, and I have been on the Board of the St. Paul Police K9 Foundation for the last 15 years. I look forward to serving my church in Sun City, AZ, American Lutheran.

## **Charles A. Alliss**

I was born in Gary, Indiana in 1951. I married my high school sweetheart, Judy, and we have two adult children and three grandchildren. We have been snowbirds for eight years and associate members of ALC for six years. I retired from Ford Motor Company after 43 years fulfilling many different responsibilities. Employee Resource Coordinator was the most recent position held. I attended college, no degree.

I have held various positions at our Lutheran Church in Crown Point, Indiana and remain active with them during our time away from ALC. At American Lutheran, I have participated in Ushering, Wednesday Night Alive, Neighborhood Groups, Call Committee and am a current member of the Personnel Committee.

I enjoy golfing, motorcycling, pickleball, traveling and reading. One of my favorite bible verses is, 1 Peter 4:10, Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.

## **Donna Borden**

I am a retired physical therapist and ran a private orthopedic practice in Flagstaff for 25 years. I was active in the business community and was on the AZ State Board of Physical Therapy and the national Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. I currently serve on the Sunshine Service Board of Directors. We joined American Lutheran church in 2005 and I served on the Council with my last year as President. I have served on many committees within the church and would like to continue to serve. I am recently widowed and have 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

## **Bill Imig**

I was born in Seward, NE and raised on a dairy farm, one of ten children. I attended University of NE, Lincoln and received a B.S. in Agriculture Economics. I then served six years in the Army National Guard and was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant. I am married to my wife, Sarah and our 53rd wedding anniversary is in June. We have two daughters, one in Seattle and one in Parker, CO with our two grandchildren. My career was in the meat industry management for 43 years with Wilson Foods, IBP, & Tyson Foods at locations in Omaha, Cedar Rapids, Oklahoma City & Sioux City. I am an enthusiastic college sports fan (especially BIG RED), enjoy golf frequently and hiking with Sarah. We spend six months living in Parker, CO and six months in Sun City, AZ. I served as an usher and on the church council in Oklahoma City and Sioux City. We joined ALC in January 2017 and I usher & have been on the Trust Committee for 3 years.

## **Arvid Peterson**

I was born and raised in Watertown, SD, earning Engineering Degrees from South Dakota State University and Purdue University. I served 5 years in the USAF including 1 year of flying in Viet Nam. I also had a career with Farmers Insurance Group and retired in Sun City in 2002. My wife, Kay and I then started a 16 year real estate career which continues today. We have 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Kay and I have each served for 3 years on the Church Council.



# 2020 CHURCH STATISTICAL RECORDS

## MEMBERSHIP RECORD FOR 01/01/2020 – 12/31/2020

	REGULAR	ASSOCIATE
Membership on 01/01/2020	875	487
New Members	+ 24	+ 3
Adult Baptism	-	-
Infant/Child Baptism	-	-
Deceased	-45	-19
Transferred / Inactive	-45	- 39
Other	-	-
Membership 12/31/2020	809	432

**Total Regular and Associate Membership as of 12/31/2020: 1241 members**

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF ALC members who passed away in 2020:

Virgil Aarness	Bea Hodson	Marjorie Schild
Lilly Alfred	Dorothy Hootman	Phyllis Seim
Wayne Baker	Bev Jensen	Kathryn Skaggs-Fincher
Linda Balk	Del Jenson	Maxine Sterrett
Barbara Barth	Betty Jett	Gil Thoele
Greta Berg	Dick Johnson	James Thompson
Edward Beyer	Rosemary Johnson	Seth Twichell
Eileen Blackler	Dan Kallenbach	Larry Ward
Richard Borden	Jean Kallenbach	
Barbara Boyce	Kay Kerst	
Jim Brown	LaVonne Klandrud	
Curt Bummer	Gordy Kolstad	
Kay Cartwright	Judy Kolstad	
Connie Caul	Ervin Langholz	
Cathy Christensen	Marge Larsen	
Jerry Christensen	Ade Leonhardi	
Marrie Coffman	John Logan	
Cathy Ford	Robert Luke	
Donald Garverick	Eileen Mannett	
Bob Geiger	Bob Mayry	
Ed Glander	Gene Meier	
Audrey Goodrich	Gary Moen	
Juanita Griffin	Ron Mueller	
Wally Gulbrandson	Lessie Odland	
Bev Hawkinson	Ed Poorman	
Sandy Herrling	Jennie Ramstad	
Gene Hersrud	Wayne Riley	
Lloyd Hillier	Barb Roberts	

# FINANCIAL COORDINATOR'S REPORT

*A Prayer for COVID-19*

*For pastors and church leaders faced with the challenges of social distancing:  
God, help them to creatively imagine how to pastor their congregants and love their cities well.*

## 2020 Finances

### Debt Reduction

<b>2019 Budget</b>	61,300	<b>2020 Budget</b>	7,340
<b>2019 Actual</b>	86,489	<b>2020 Actual</b>	88,643

- Gifts collected are applied directly to the Principal, with a Goal of being debt-free by our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (2025).
- Although COVID affect us all, ALC had loving support throughout the year from its dedicated congregation.

### PPP Loan

- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan was used Jun-Jul 2020 specifically for Personnel and Utility expenses.
- This government loan is anticipated to be forgiven this year (becoming a Grant).
- ALC did not qualify for a 2<sup>nd</sup> installment this year.

## 2020 Overview

### Operating Account

- 2019 End Balance 213,299
- 2020 End Balance 224,614
- Year-End Balance 11,315
- PPP Loan 92,500 *\*Presently a Loan/not a grant until Government approved*

### Money Market Account

- 2019 End Balance 363,130
- 2020 End Balance 474,102
- End of Year Gain 110,972

This account serves the below: Gifts & Memorials, Women's Ministry. Music & Worship, Capital Reserve

### Trust Account

- 2019 End Balance 1,422,390
- 2020 End Balance 1,575,575
- End of Year Gain 153,186
- This "gift" account is used exclusively for the Operational needs of the Church.

## 2019-2020 Budget to Actuals

Department	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 Actual
Pledged Gifts	702,245	773,959	647,432	905,710
Non-Pledged Gifts	537,651	260,494	516,687	300,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,239,896</b>	<b>1,034,453</b>	<b>1,164,119</b>	<b>1,205,710</b>
Advertising	7,500	2,070	2,400	3865
Benevolence	122,000	102,100	110,000	110,000
Finance & Budget	85,000	90,000	168,792	113,935
Operations	145,465	183,285	97,731	83,780
Personnel	762,490	669,372	684,752	637,128
Property & Grounds	42,605	56,573	102,847	101,061
Worship & Music	21,858	11,556	13,649	14,581
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,186,918</b>	<b>1,114,956</b>	<b>1,180,171</b>	<b>1,064,350</b>

## 2021 Budget Highlights

Account	Budget
Pledged Gifts	872,910
Non-Pledged Gifts	360,500
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,233,410</b>
In/Out	22,400
Benevolence	85,000
Finance & Budget	87,167
Operations	131,510
Personnel	844,172
Property & Grounds	38,051
Worship & Music	19,430
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,227,730</b>

## 2020 BALANCE SHEET (Statement of Financial Position)

American Lutheran Church

### Statement of Financial Position

As of: Dec 31st 2020

#### Assets

##### CURRENT ASSETS

100010 Petty Cash	127.57
<b>Operating Funds x0108</b>	
100000 Amtrust General Checking 108	110,783.14
101040 Mission Investment Funds	102.48
Total Operating Funds x0108	110,885.62
<b>Endowment (Perm Restricted)</b>	
101090 Endowment Account	1,565,346.43
Total Endowment (Perm Restricted)	1,565,346.43
<b>Savings and Reserved x3162</b>	
101030 Capital Reserve	162,476.55
101031 Undesignated Memorial Fund	117,667.73
101032 Designated Gifts & Memorials	63,830.14
101033 Money Market Checking 3162	149,419.02
Total Savings and Reserved x3162	493,393.44
Total CURRENT ASSETS	2,169,753.06

##### LONG TERM ASSETS

##### Fixed Assets

102000 Land-at Cost	59,775.44
102010 Buildings-at Cost	6,975,704.55
102020 Furniture & Fixtures-at Cost	665,136.65
102030 Pipe Organ-at Cost	737,237.98
102040 Landscaping-at Cost	49,699.55
102050 2007 Chevy Eldorado Aero Elite-Cost	92,070.35
Total Fixed Assets	8,579,624.52

Total LONG TERM ASSETS

8,579,624.52

#### Total Assets

**\$ 10,749,377.58**

#### Liabilities & Net Assets

##### Liabilities

##### Current Liabilities

200000 Social Security Liability (EE)	( 869.24)
200010 Medicare Liability (EE)	( 203.27)
200020 Federal Withholding Liability	( 1,239.14)
200030 Arizona State WH Liability	( 330.84)
200040 Wages Payable	( 16,907.82)
200050 Pastors Continuing Education	6,547.02
200060 First Bank Credit Card	6,469.08
Total Current Liabilities	( 6,534.21)

##### Long Term Liability

250000 Mortgage Payable	2,265,803.11
251000 PPP Loan	92,500.00
Total Long Term Liability	2,358,303.11

Total Liabilities

2,351,768.90

##### Net Assets

##### Fund Principal1

300000 ALC Sun City Fund Prin (Net Worth)	892,849.62
351000 Capital Assets Equity	6,055,358.22
361000 Capital Fund Equity	8,516.03

371000 Reserve Savings 3162	( 124,461.62)
Total Fund Principal1	6,832,262.25
<b>Permanent Restricted1</b>	
900000 Trust Endowment	1,565,346.43
Total Permanent Restricted1	1,565,346.43
Total Net Assets	8,397,608.68
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 10,749,377.58</b>