



the little church with a big heart!

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
5872 E. Naples Plaza, Long Beach, CA 90803

VOLUME 59

JANUARY, 2021
ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE

NUMBER 1

THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2021 following our 10:00 a.m. worship service on Zoom. We ask every member to study the report and be present for the annual meeting which we be held in a virtual setting.

MINUTES – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – JANUARY 26, 2020

Call to Order: A quorum being present, President Margie Brown called the meeting to order at 11:42 AM.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Steve opened the meeting in prayer.

Minutes: The minutes of the 05/19/2019 Congregational Meeting was approved as presented.

2019 Financial Report: Gary Bockman discussed the 2019 Financial Report. The Report was received.

Proposed 2020 Spending Plan: Gary Bockman discussed the 2020 Spending Plan. After a brief discussion of the decrease in contributions, it was moved, seconded and carried (MSC) to adopt the 2020 Spending Plan.

Questions for any other committees: Appeals were made by the various chairs for additional members for their committees.

New Business:

-Open Sanctuary: Church Council has proposed opening the sanctuary to the public for two hours on one to two days per week. After discussion, S Nelson will follow up with groups that use the fellowship hall as to when might be of benefit to their members.

Announcements:

-Reminders of Lenten and Easter services.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 12:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Siemer, Secretary

MINUTES – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – MAY 17, 2020

Call to Order: A quorum being present (29), President Margie Brown called the meeting to order at 11:20 am. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted on the internet via Zoom. All parties could hear each other.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Steve opened the meeting in prayer.

Minutes: Approval of the minutes of the 01/26/2020 Congregational Meeting was deferred until the next Congregational Meeting.

Election of Council Members: The President stated that three Church Council seats are open for election. Lark Adams and Barbara White have agreed to stand for election. The President asked if there were any additional nominations. There were no additional nominations. It was Moved, Seconded and Carried (“MSC”) to close nominations and elect both nominees to a three year term on church council.

Thank You to Retiring Church Council Members: The President extended the Congregation’s thanks to retiring Church Council members: Sandy and Galen Anderson and Robert Siemer.

Representatives to 2020 Synod Assembly: The President stated that Margie Brown and Sandy Nelson have volunteered to serve as Gloria Dei’s representatives to the 2020 Synod Assembly. MSC to close nominations and elect Margie Brown and Sandy Nelson as the representatives.

Questions for any other committees: There were no questions.

Adjournment: Following a closing prayer by Pastor Steve, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Siemer, Secretary

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT FOR 2020, by Margie Brown

Greetings to our Gloria Dei family:

To say this has been an interesting year is unnecessary. Church council has met every month, using Zoom when the Covid crisis hit. We have had two congregational meetings, one in person in January and one via Zoom in May. Budgets were approved, contracts were signed for some painting and maintenance around the church building. The sanctuary has been "unused" since April and our former meeting guests (hall use) have gone elsewhere. But we have "soldiered on". Please read Karen's report on Mission activities. Our family has been very generous to those in need.

We selected Pastor Steve, Sandy Nelson and Margie Brown to attend the Synod meeting. However, that too was cancelled.

We thanked the Galen and Sandi Anderson for their service as they chose to step down from Council. Bob Siemer also left Council as his commitment expired, but has continued to serve as our Zoom guru when Council gathers. Lark Adams was elected to Council. With the death of Barbara White, we have a vacancy which Phil Como has agreed to fill until May elections. Thank you Phil for stepping in. That also makes him chair of the property committee. In the fall, Pastor Steve had his cochlear implant surgery.

We participated in the Long Beach Gives program: our recipients were Lutheran Social Services and South Coast Interfaith Council. We provided funds for several holiday activities for LSS (toys) and Fe y Esperanza (turkeys). Pastor and Meri Beckham deferred their holiday monetary gift and thus a Holiday Fund was created. This fund was used to support the "toys and turkeys" projects. Thank you all for your incredibly generous support of this fund.

In spite of the pandemic, we have continued to support our congregation: adult education, held Sundays and Christmas Eve services, a memorial service for our departed family members. Our building has been refreshed with paint and repairs and our Mission endeavors have been outstanding. We have received letters from our missionary in China, Dorcas Wang, thanking us for our continued support.

I know we miss not seeing each other in person, but please try to join us via Zoom. It does work and we can see each other electronically. May God's grace continue to envelope us in His Love.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR for 2020 – Pastor Steve Beckham

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. –Romans 8:31, 37-39

It's hard to believe that it was just one year ago, January 7, 2020 that a travel advisory was issued by the CDC warning Americans to be cautious if travelling near Wuhan, China because a cluster of pneumonia cases had been reported there. It seems like things snowballed after that. Kobe and Gianna Bryant were killed in a helicopter crash. The president was impeached. The Democratic Debates happened. The Boy Scouts filed for bankruptcy. Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd were killed and protestors filled the streets. The election happened...

On February 29th the first Covid-19 death in the US was reported, although they would later attribute earlier deaths to the disease. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the Covid-19 outbreak to be a pandemic and urged governments to take strict measures to stop the virus and protect their citizens.

That same week, following guidelines from our synod office, we sent out an eBlast stating that we would close the church building for two weeks. At that time we were being told that if everyone isolated for two weeks the health authorities could probably get the upper hand and we could conquer this thing. On March 15, expecting it to be a brief and interesting interlude, we moved worship and education online using Zoom and YouTube with links from our website, our eBlast, and the church's Facebook page.

We adapted our liturgy. Not all of what works well in the sanctuary translates well to the Zoom screen and we felt that a shorter worship time would work better online. I want to say a heartfelt word of thanks to Bob Siemer for all the behind-the-scenes tech work that has kept our worship and classes going. Thank you, too, to Karen and Phil Como for their faithful service as part of the worship team—especially for decorating the sanctuary and taking pictures that I can use as a background to create a bit of a sense of being there, and special thanks to Richard Hoover for providing music for our hymns, playing his keyboard from his home so you can sing in yours. You are singing, aren't you?

When we moved online, we were able to finish our Adult Ed class on Romans, which was nearly complete, in Zoom. Unfortunately, we had to curtail our class on Great Figures in the New Testament because the centerpiece of that class is a DVD by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine and we weren't equipped to play that on Zoom. We continued Adult Education with a study of 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians and followed that with The History of the Creeds. On Sunday mornings we studied the Epistle to the Hebrews and we are now about to begin a new study on the Gospel of Mark. On Wednesdays, we have also been enjoying some profound discussions as we study *Fratelli Tutti*, the newest encyclical from Pope Francis.

One thing that has been most difficult during this time of Covid is pastoral care and counseling. I've had to do almost all of it by phone, texting, email, or private Zoom or Facetime meetings. That's less than ideal, but it has been the only safe option.

During this time when circumstances seemed bent on shutting us down, this church has continued to do the work of Christ. We continued to support our mission partners (see Karen's report) in powerful ways. We continued our education programs. We continued to meet to socialize and to talk. We continued to worship. We continued to care for each other in powerful, personal ways. We continued, in short, to be the church.

Sandy has done a remarkable job of keeping the home fires burning, making sure our facilities are in decent order and ready for our return. She has also been indispensable in keeping communications flowing and making sure the paperwork gets done. And by the way, this week (as I am writing this) marks the 20th anniversary of her service as our parish secretary.

I know we are all praying for the day when we can be together again in our facilities to worship, to study, to sing, to pray. Until that time, may the peace that passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

I am so proud of this church.

With much love in Christ for you all,

Pastor Steve

WORSHIP REPORT for 2020 – by Phil Como, Worship Chair

If Vin Scully were writing my worship report he would coin this phrase - “In the year of the probable, the improbable has happened”. I can’t do better than that. Our worship has morphed from acolytes lighting altar candles, processions and recessions, choir anthems, decorating the sanctuary for Lent, Good Friday, and Easter, paraments for Pentecost, decorating for Advent and Christmas to...the unexpected and challenging format of worship online.

Frankly, there is little for me to add to the Worship report this year other than an expression of sincere gratitude to those who have enabled our congregation to transition to online worship.

I want to begin with a special thank you to Bob Siemer for taking the initiative to ‘reinvent’ our services online using Zoom and bringing that initiative to fruition. We have benefited from Bob’s gift for technology and his willingness to explore this new frontier on our behalf. In the face of this technology and our individual technical challenges which we have sent to the inbox of his e-mail account, he has enabled our congregation to remain unified in worship and given us a way to fellowship with one another following our Sunday services.

Pastor Steve, thank you for continuing to lead us in worship and Adult Education. Thank you for structuring our worship services to match the parameters of the online format and for continuing to provide insightful, thought-provoking sermons.

Richard, thank you for adjusting to our new, albeit temporary, reality by helping us remain faithful to our musical traditions through your accompaniments.

Karen, thank you for the clarity and heartfelt readings of our lessons each Sunday.

A new endeavor is never without its fits and starts. In this endeavor we were/are predictable. However, through miscues, unexpected mutings (or not), and moments of forgetfulness, you, the congregation, have joined us each Sunday for worship. Thank you for looking past our gaffes; thank you for your willingness to embrace this technology to make it possible to live our faith through worship as a community. I am of the opinion that our constancy has been pleasing to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. I hope you share this opinion with me. Please unmute your microphones - can I hear an Amen!

MISSIONS REPORT for 2020 – by Karen Como

Although 2020 was an unusual year, our church family continued to have a loving and giving heart! Nearly \$22,000 was given to our Mission Partners from our tithes and offerings that include: Synod Benevolence, ELCA Global Missionary Support, Fe Y Esperanza, Lutheran Maritime Ministry, Lutheran Social Services Long Beach (LSS), Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and South Coast Interfaith Council. Additionally, members of Gloria Dei gave another \$9,700 to World Hunger, Lutheran Maritime Ministry, Fe E Esperanza, ELCA Disaster Relief, and other mission partners.

Highlights for 2020 include:

- January, February and March we continued to support LSS on the third Saturday of the month by preparing bags of groceries and sorting clothing items.
- After the stay-at-home orders became a necessity due to COVID-19, trips were made to LSS with donations of clothing and food supplies.
- 100+ quilts were made and donated to the Long Beach Police Department to provide warmth and compassion for children.
- Delivered 35 Homeless Kits to LSS.

- Regular trips were made to Fe E Esperanza with donated food and donations in support of Fe E Esperanza program to feed their church family.
- Initiated a Holiday Fund that provided support for:
 - Turkeys for Fe E Esperanza
 - LSS Christmas party (toys and food for the families served at LSS)
 - Fe Esperanza's Los Posadas Christmas event
 - Socks for the Long Beach Men/Women's Shelter
- Maritime Ministry boxes (20)
- Support and participation in the Crop Walk (Drive Out Hunger)

So much kindness and generosity were shown in so many ways to our Mission Partners in 2020 and as we enter 2021 the need for support to feed and care for people has only increased as we remain in the critical stages of COVID-19. Please prayerfully consider your continuing support of our Mission Partners. Donations can be made online at www.gdlclb.org under the "Give" tab or by sending a check and indicating on the memo line which Mission Partner you'd like to designate.

Property Report, by Karen Como

In November our church received a much needed "facelift" and power scrubbing! Repairs were completed on the stucco, the bottom 4 feet of the building was painted, the entire building was power-washed and the benches at the front of our church were painted and given a new coat of lacquer. After receiving bids from 5 licensed and bonded painting contractors, the Council selected Hendrix Painting to complete the work. The cost to complete this project was \$3900.00.

GLORIA DEI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
COMPARISON BALANCE SHEET
as of DECEMBER 31, 2020 and DECEMBER 31, 2019

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents		
City National Bank	51,788.90	48,367.78
American Christian Credit Union	11,469.08	11,304.69
Mission Investment Fund	70,356.32	44,561.18
Prepaid Expense	13,336.15	5,146.37
Receivable Other	0.00	1,500.00
Total Assets	<u>146,950.45</u>	<u>110,880.02</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	788.93	278.28
Accrued Expense Payable	4,387.00	0.00
Prepaid Income	0.00	0.00
Paycheck Protection Loan	29,804.00	0.00
Parsonage Rental Deposit	3,000.00	3,000.00
Year End Suplus Payable	14,770.73	5,521.76
Total Liabilities	<u>52,750.66</u>	<u>8,800.04</u>
Dedicated Funds Payable		
Altar Flowers	161.25	0.00
Amoung Us	210.20	210.20
LSS Food Pantry/Emergency Services	5.00	0.00
Fe y Esperanza (Noisey Offering)	224.08	0.00
Holiday Fund	168.59	0.00
Memorials - Designated	3,758.00	3,858.00
Memorials - Don Melin	350.00	0.00
Memorials - Undesignated	3,791.85	4,363.30
Music	5,470.77	2,386.77
Reserve: Web Advertising	1,600.00	1,600.00
Reserve: Church Computers	1,266.25	1,266.25
Property Reserve	36,136.49	43,481.49
VBS	165.00	165.00
Emergency Reserve	35,500.00	35,500.00
Living the Resurrection	0.00	102.24
Total Dedicated Funds Payable	<u>88,807.48</u>	<u>92,933.25</u>
Total Fund Balance/Equity	<u>5,392.31</u>	<u>9,248.97</u>
Total Liabilities, Dedicated Funds & Equity	<u>146,950.45</u>	<u>110,982.26</u>

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR-TO-DATE DECEMBER 2020 and DECEMBER 2019

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Revenue		
Contributions	161,893.30	185,978.96
Hall Use	2,861.00	5,322.00
Interest Income	959.53	692.56
Rental Income	42,000.00	41,400.00
Total Revenue	<u>207,713.83</u>	<u>233,393.52</u>
Expenses		
Missions	22,002.00	28,643.00
Properties	10,204.99	18,906.41
Worship	120,497.16	123,293.87
Administration	48,400.25	51,781.70
Church Programs	1,217.12	1,519.57
Total Expenses	<u>202,321.52</u>	<u>224,144.55</u>
Revenue less Expenses	5,392.31	9,248.97
Funds from Memorials-Undesignated	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Revenue less Expenses	<u>5,392.31</u>	<u>9,248.97</u>

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH YTD Mission Plan as of 12/31/2020

	Approved 2020 Annual Plan	YTD 2020 Spending Plan	YTD 2020 Actual	YTD 2020 Difference
Revenue				
Regular/Loose Offering	168,640.00	168,640.00	161,893.30	(6,746.70)
Hall use donations	6,200.00	6,200.00	2,861.00	(3,339.00)
Interest/Other Income	600.00	600.00	959.53	359.53
Rental Income	42,600.00	42,600.00	42,000.00	(600.00)
Total Revenue	218,040.00	218,040.00	207,713.83	(10,326.17)
Expenses				
Missions				
Synod Benevolence	13,080.00	13,080.00	12,480.00	600.00
ELCA Global Missionary Support	1,454.00	1,454.00	1,387.00	67.00
Fe Y Esperanza	2,654.00	2,654.00	2,587.00	67.00
Lutheran Maritime Ministry	1,454.00	1,454.00	1,387.00	67.00
L.S.S. Long Beach	1,454.00	1,454.00	1,387.00	67.00
Pacific Lutheran Theolog. Sem.	1,454.00	1,454.00	1,387.00	67.00
So Coast Interfaith Council	1,454.00	1,454.00	1,387.00	67.00
Other Mission Support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Missions	23,004.00	23,004.00	22,002.00	1,002.00
Properties				
Church Maint/Repairs	9,000.00	9,000.00	5,074.00	3,926.00
Parsonage Maint/Repairs	2,800.00	2,800.00	2,502.00	298.00
Parsonage Insurance/PropTx	2,600.00	2,600.00	2,628.99	(28.99)
Property Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Properties	14,400.00	14,400.00	10,204.99	4,195.01
Worship				
Child Care	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Religious Supplies	2,200.00	2,200.00	1,583.86	616.14
Music/Audio Visual Supplies	600.00	600.00	137.00	463.00
Sanctuary Adornment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Director of Music	24,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00	0.00
Music Soloist/Programs	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,084.00	616.00
Supply Pastor	800.00	800.00	0.00	800.00
Pastor Salary	76,400.00	76,400.00	76,404.00	(4.00)
Pastor Exp/Conf/Prof Ed	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00
Pastor Benefits	15,556.00	15,556.00	15,288.30	267.70
Total Worship	123,856.00	123,856.00	120,497.16	3,358.84
Administration				
Church: Insurance/Fees/Permits	5,540.00	5,540.00	6,096.98	(556.98)
Staff Salaries	26,460.00	26,460.00	26,460.00	0.00
Payroll Taxes	3,860.00	3,860.00	3,860.16	(0.16)
Office Supplies	2,240.00	2,240.00	984.47	1,255.53
Church Supplies	850.00	850.00	167.05	682.95
Office Technology	700.00	700.00	349.99	350.01
Postage/Printing	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,549.39	(49.39)
Contingencies	1,540.00	1,540.00	500.00	1,040.00
Church Property Taxes	690.00	690.00	688.89	1.11
Church Utilities	11,000.00	11,000.00	7,743.32	3,256.68
Total Administration	54,380.00	54,380.00	48,400.25	5,979.75
Church Programs				
Advertising/Web Service	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,217.12	582.88
Fellowship	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00
Total Education	2,400.00	2,400.00	1,217.12	1,182.88
Total Expenses	218,040.00	218,040.00	202,321.52	15,718.48
Revenue less Expenses	0.00	0.00	5,392.31	

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH Proposed Spending Plan - 2021				
	2020 Approved	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed	% change from 2020
Revenue Planned				
Regular Offering	168,640	161,893	158,000	-6.31%
Hall use donations	6,200	2,861	3,000	
Interest Income	600	960	800	
Rental Income	42,600	42,000	42,000	
Total Support and Revenue	218,040	207,714	203,800	-6.53%
Expenses Planned				
<i>Missions</i>				
Synod Benevolence	13,080	12,480	12,228	
ELCA Global Missionary Sup	1,454	1,387	1,359	
Fe Y Esperanza	2,654	2,587	2,559	
Lutheran Maritime Ministry	1,454	1,387	1,359	
L.S.S. Long Beach	1,454	1,387	1,359	
Pacific Lutheran Theolog.Sem	1,454	1,387	1,359	
So Coast Interfaith Council	1,454	1,387	1,359	
Other Mission Support	0	0	0	
Total Missions	23,004	22,002	21,580	-6.19%
<i>Properties</i>				
Church Maint/Repairs	9,000	5,074	5,500	
Parsonage Maint/Repairs	2,800	2,502	2,650	
Parsonage Insurance/PropTx	2,600	2,629	2,625	
Property Reserve	0	0	0	
Total Properties	14,400	10,205	10,775	-25.17%
<i>Worship</i>				
Child Care	0	0	0	
Religious Supplies	2,200	1,584	1,675	
Music/Audio Visual Supplies	600	137	200	
Sanctuary Adornment	0	0	0	
Director of Music Salary	24,000	24,000	24,000	
Music Soloist/Programs	3,700	3,084	3,100	
Supply Pastor	800	0	800	
Pastor Salary	76,400	76,404	76,400	
Pastor Exp/Conf/Prof Ed	600	0	0	
Pastor Benefits	15,556	15,288	15,040	
Total Worship	123,856	120,497	121,215	-2.13%
<i>Administration</i>				
Church: Insurance/Fees/Permits	5,540	6,097	6,000	
Staff Salaries	26,460	26,460	26,460	
Payroll Taxes	3,860	3,860	3,860	
Office Supplies	2,240	984	1,200	
Church Supplies	850	167	200	
Office Technology	700	350	300	
Postage/Printing	1,500	1,549	1,700	
Contingencies	1,540	500	500	
Property Taxes - Church	690	689	700	
Utilities - church	11,000	7,743	8,100	
Total Administration	54,380	48,400	49,020	-9.86%
<i>Church Programs</i>				
Advertising/Web Service	1,800	1,217	1,210	
Fellowship	600	0	0	
Total Church Programs	2,400	1,217	1,210	-49.58%
Total Expenses	218,040	202,322	203,800	-6.53%
Support/Revenue - Expenses	0	5,392	0	