

+ 2020 Annual Report+

Our Savior's Lutheran Church – Cleveland, MN

January 31, 2021 – 10:00 am



Annual Report 2020

Our Savior's Lutheran Church – Cleveland, Minnesota
Annual Meeting of the Congregation – January 31, 2021 – 10:00 am

Meeting Agenda and Contents of the Annual Report

Opening Devotional	Budget
Secretary Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting	Elections
Members and Statistics	Synod Assembly Report
Pastor's and Written Reports	Old Business
Gifts Given and Received	New Business
Financial Reports and Treasurer's Report	Closing Prayer

Opening Devotions

Greeting: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

L. O God of all power and love ...

C. ... we give thanks for your unfailing presence.

L. O God of all power and love, we give thanks ...

C. ... for the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.

L. O God of all power and love ...

C. ... we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to rekindle in us your holy fire.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask you ...

C. ... to revive us to live as Christ's body in the world.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask to be ...

C. ... a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask you to be with us ...

C. ... wherever and however we gather. Unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray:

May we embrace the reconciling power of oneness with Christ. May this oneness guide our congregation as we live into the new realities of these times. As we meet new partners in ministry, may we take time to get to know them with patience, humility and love. Help us to see how sharing our gifts will make your work easier and more fulfilling while bringing all of us closer to Christ. May the blessings you give each day strengthen us to a living, daring confidence in your grace. Amen.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
2019 Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2020

Present: 34 Congregation members in attendance

The annual meeting of Our Savior's Lutheran Church was called to order by Council President , Andi Lassiter.

Pastor Liz led us in Opening Devotions.

2019 Annual Meeting Minutes were presented. Motion was made by Vicki Walechka to approve and seconded by Judy Hahn. No opposed. Motion carried.

2019 Statistics were reviewed. Average weekly attendance was 81 over 51 Sundays in 2019. Total baptized members are 516, with 5 new baptisms. Four youth were confirmed and 5 youth took First Communion.

Pastor Liz had a report that highlighted activities by the month for 2019.

Andi Lassiter gave a report that highlighted different areas the council had focused on in 2019.

Building and Grounds had a list of pending projects for 2019. Completed projects were reviewed.

Worship and Music had a report for 2019 submitted by Vicki Walechka to recognize the many different areas people serve.

Education reports 40 children participate in God Squad in 2019. Other areas highlighted were Confirmation, High School, and Adult Bible Study.

Other reports that were presented were Stewardship and Hospitality.

Gifts Given and Received were also reviewed.
The 2019 Budget was reviewed.

The proposed Budget for 2020 was reviewed. Cindi McCabe moved to accept the proposed budget for 2020. Virginia Grabow seconded. No opposed. Motion carried.

Election is for two positions. Sharon Gregor and Virginia Grabow have agreed to serve. Andi Lassiter moved to approve their nominations. Cindi McCabe seconded. No opposed. Motion carried. Andi Lassiter and Terry Bateman were thanked for serving on the church council.

Pastor Liz gave a report on the Synod Assembly.

There was no Old Business.

Under New Business it was asked if a new picture could be hung.

Virginia Grabow moved to adjourn. Deb Gerhke seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Kay Wendelschafer

2020 Statistics

Holy Baptism

Knox Richard Seely 7/9/20
Bryce David Voss 10/10/20

New Members

None

Marriage

Chris Thomas & Tom Christensen 7/3/20

Members Transferred Out

Megan Smith
Gary & Judy Dunn
Michele, Erik, Sam, Gunnar & Annie Olson

Funerals

Kurt Ross 3/14/20
Bill Sexe 11/7/20
Clayton Block (died) 12/21/20

Confirmation 10/25/20

Jonathan Biehn
Alex Garcia

First Communion

None

Membership Tally

(Total 2019 Baptized Membership: 516)

Total 2020 Baptized Membership: 507

Worship Attendance

2019

51 Sundays (Church canceled on Feb, 24, because of weather) Attendance 4,112

Mid - Week Services (No Data)

Total Attendance: divided by weeks = 81 Avg.

Weekly Attendance

2020

52 Sundays Attendance: 4125 (online and in-person)

Mid - Week Services (no Data)

Total Attendance: divided by weeks = 79 avg.

Weekly Attendance

Special Services

Ash Wednesday Attendance: 62
Maundy Thursday Attendance: 138 (online)
Good Friday Attendance: 73 (online)

2019 Easter: 7:00 am = 71; 9:00am = 142)

2020 Easter: 144 (online)

Community Thanksgiving Service = None

Christmas Program 12/17/17 = None

*(2019 Christmas Eve 3:00 pm = 133;
5:00pm = 126)*

2020 Christmas Eve: 164 (online)

Pastor's 2020 Annual Report

The year started out with many possibilities. In January 2020, I challenged the congregation to offer ideas for our “20/20 vision”—what our hopes and dreams in ministry for the coming year might be and how we would partner together in bringing them about.

In February, OSLC hosted the Annual Meeting of the MN River Conference of the SE MN Synod of the ELCA, which we belong to.

At the beginning of Lent, I offered a workshop on Lutheran Prayer Beads. It during the beginning of March that the Corona Virus arrived in the Midwest and March 15, 2020 was our last in person meeting for several months. With help from Scott Lassiter and Vicki Walechka, I began to explore the world of online worship.

In April, we began using Zoom to stream/call in for worship and Bible Study. Deb Gehrke and Ginny Grabow organized a calling tree to help connect our members while under stay at home orders. We signed up for a new online giving program called Tithe.ly to offer more options to support our ministry while not meeting in person. The Church Council also agreed to meet weekly, online, to continue meeting the changing needs of the congregation and to support me. I cannot thank them enough for the ways in which they stepped up this year.

May brought new opportunities for ministry experiments with a virtual recognition of High School Seniors and a virtual Beer And Hymns that I co-hosted with a musician from St. Peter. Our video was viewed over 500 times! I also began a community Bible Study with my friend and colleague Pr. Scott Richards from Gaylord. We had people from all over MN and three other states join us.

In July, I got to join the Seeley Family for the Baptism of Knox Richard Seely and officiate the wedding of Tom Christiansen and Chris Thomas. We also welcomed back to in-person worship those not able to connect online with strict social distancing and mask policies and in August opened up our in-person worship reservations to the rest of the congregation.

August and September were spent preparing for an altered Wednesday night youth program. Students were divided into two groups which rotate on a weekly basis. This program year I am teaching the 6th grade and 7th -8th grade classes. I also took an online class called “The Next Faithful Move” about dismantling racism and how to have those difficult conversations. It was also during this time that the council approved some much needed technology and internet upgrades to ensure our ability to minister in person and online.

In October, we celebrated the Affirmation of Faith of Alex Garcia and Jonathan Biehn. Cleveland Public School began renting our fellowship hall and classrooms to keep students safely distanced while their renovations finished up. We also hosted the Cleveland Community Trunk-or-Treat with all activities taking place socially distanced in the parking lot. Over 100 kids came through for treats and fun!

We again suspended in-person activities in November due to dangerous Covid levels. Vicki, Scott, and I pre-recorded and live streamed our mid-week Advent services and Sunday morning worship. With an Action Grant from Thrivent Financial , we purchased supplies for take home Advent kits for those who chose to participate.

Christmas worship was different this year, as so many things were, my sister, my dad, and I hosted an online Blue Christmas worship from our respective locations, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Minnesota. Leading worship together is treat that we rarely get to do. Christmas Eve worship was made possible by special music from Shelly Conlon and Vicki, Scott and Sam Voit manned the camera, and Sandy Bateman helped put together take home kits for Holy Communion and candlelight.

2020 has stretched me professionally, personally, and emotionally in many ways and I am grateful for your support through it all.

Pr. Liz Rossing

Council President's Annual Report

Welcome to the annual meeting of Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Thanks for attending the annual meeting either in person or virtually.

As everyone knows, 2020 was a trying year not only on our personal lives, but also for the church and the church council. In the beginning of the pandemic we were flying by the seat of our pants. We did not have any guidelines to go by, but later on we started getting some guidelines from the synod and that was a big help.

One of the biggest challenges was our technology in the church. Just like in many of our homes, the church was very short on internet capacity, so it took a few months to get that figured out.

We switched to Mediacom for internet service and hired Video Services, Inc. to help improve our streaming capabilities at a cost of \$2,449.93.

In November, some of the council members worked on and developed a Covid 19 Preparedness plan. A copy of it is available on request.

We applied for and received a PPP loan for \$10,000 which we used to pay salaries. The loan was forgiven, so we did not have to pay it back.

We also rented the social hall to the school for three months at a rate of \$1500.00 per month to help them out until the new part of the school was finished.

Building and Grounds Annual Report

The following projects were completed in 2020.

New AED and first aid kit was installed on the wall by the kitchen.

New hot water heater installed in kitchen.

The flat roof on the north-west side of the church was repaired.

Education Annual Report

OSLC held regular God Squad, Confirmation, and Bible study classes from January until March 15, 2020 at which point all in-person activities ceased due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Adult Bible study began online in April, while God Squad youth activities were on hold while families adjusted to distance learning. Over the spring and summer, Pr. Liz partnered with Pr. Scott Richards from Gaylord, MN to offer a community Bible Study with people joining from all over Minnesota and other states too.

Our Youth Coordinator put together an outdoor, socially distanced Vacation Bible School program in August, however due to lack of participants the event was canceled.

Youth activities resumed in October with many modifications due to Covid-19. From October-November the kids were split into two different, rotating groups with Pr. Liz and Victoria teaching. 9th grade confirmation met once a month after worship on Sundays. Activities were suspended again in mid November due to pandemic conditions. Advent-at-Home kits were assembled and provided for families who wanted to participate.

Stewardship Annual Report

Outreach Ministry: In May, 20 congregations members participated in cleaning 2 different stretches of road to fulfill our Adopt-a-Highway commitment. In June, we joined Mankato churches who donated and delivered supplies like food, water, and toiletries to Minneapolis after the riots and looting that occurred in response to the death of George Floyd. This past Fall, Our Savior's rented space in our church building to Cleveland Public Schools as their construction renovations and additions continued. This was only needed for a short period of time in October and November as their safe learning model changed to distance learning for all students from Thanksgiving through the new year. Trunk or Treat was held in our church parking lot on October 31st and served 100 kids. Church of Christ joined us in this effort. In November, we were able to continue participating in the Adopt-a-Family program through Le Sueur County by mailing them monetary donations to buy what was needed.

Hospitality Annual Report

In the spring, several families volunteered to assist a parishioner with meals while home recuperating from surgery. However, due to COVID the family chose not to accept the offer. Thanks to those who made their time available for this, we are grateful to have so many giving and willing members.

OSLC continues to support the Adopt A Highway. In May, twenty-one individuals assisted in the clean up of Highway's 104 and 105. The individuals included Ethan, Elizabeth, Lila, Levi and Rylan Wargelin, Scott, Andi, Maya, Neehna and Bray Lassiter, Don and Ginger McCabe, Corbin and Dylan Thompson, Ben Olsen, Jamie, Tonja, Sam and Millie Baker and Bob and Deb Gehrke.

Due to COVID 19 restrictions some worship services had to be held virtually. As a representative for the Hospitality group and church council, Deb Gehrke, with the assistance of Pastor Liz developed a reservation system that worked well to track and limit the number of attendees per synod recommendations and the State restrictions. The reservations could be made in person, by telephone, by email or by text. The reservation system and recording of attendees will be used again when in-person services can resume safely for the attendees and as restrictions allow or change.

A Calling Tree was started consisting of Betty Consoer, Greg Davis, Deb Gehrke, Louise Goede, Ginny Grabow, Judy Hahn, Dianne Hanson, Sandra Koppelman, Cindy McCabe, Shelly Miller, Lael Starkweather, Julie Wagner and Kay Wendelschafer. The purpose was to stay in contact with our church members and their families when we were early in the COVID restrictions. The goal was to check on the wellbeing of our family members; making sure they were safe and able to obtain what they needed while quarantined and to provide them with options to stay connected to OSLC. Members seem to welcome the calls. We continue to reach out to those who do not necessarily have the electronic means to stay connected on a one-to-one basis.

In 2021, we hope to continue our efforts to assist when needed as we continue COVID restrictions. We also plan to complete an updated membership directory.

If there are any suggestions or ideas, contact Deb Gehrke (507-381-0815 or gehrkrbd74@gmail.com).

Outreach Annual Report

In May, 20 congregations members participated in cleaning 2 different stretches of road to fulfill our Adopt-a-Highway commitment. In June, we joined Mankato churches who donated and delivered supplies like food, water, and toiletries to Minneapolis after the riots and looting that occurred in response to the death of George Floyd. This past Fall, Our Savior's rented space in our church building to Cleveland Public Schools as their construction renovations and additions continued. This was only needed for a short period of time in October and November as their safe learning model changed to distance learning for all students from Thanksgiving through the new year. Trunk or Treat was held in our church parking lot on October 31st and served 100 kids. Church of Christ joined us in this effort. In November, we were able to continue participating in the Adopt-a-Family program through Le Sueur County by mailing them monetary donations to buy what was needed.

Stewardship Annual Report

2020 was a challenging year in many respects. We had to adapt to new forms of worship and ever changing guidelines. I would like to start out by saying thank you to all who continued to support Our Savior's throughout the year! I know that for many people there were uncertainties about personal income as work schedules and employment were impacted by the pandemic. The church saw an increase in electronic giving as in person worship was significantly reduced throughout the year. Simply Giving continues to be an option for setting up automatic gifts to the church and we also added Tithley as a second option that allows for gifts to be made at any time and in any amount. Mailing in checks is also an option for those that are not comfortable with electronic giving. Our Saviors was fortunate to receive a grant through the Payroll Protection Program to help cover payroll expenses during the year. As we move forward into 2021 I encourage all to continue supporting Our Savior's through their generous gifts so that we can continue to offer the same level of worship and programs to our congregation and community.

Worship and Music Annual Report

Normally we would thank those who serve as worship assistants throughout the year but due to COVID, these opportunities to volunteer have been limited. Instead we want to thank you as a congregation for joining us on the journey with technology as we dealt with multiple internet providers, no service, "freezing" issues, and just the learning curve with technology!

The church purchased a new video camera with HD (high definition) recording capabilities and the Church Board hired a technology company to help with recording services. The new camera and program has really enhanced the quality and look of services that are being shown. A BIG thank you to Pastor Liz for the hours she spends getting the services together and online for us to view!!

With the stay at home order in March, the remaining Lent services were held via facebook and only one Easter service was held. The summer brought limited attendance to church but with the upcoming holiday season, in-person services were suspended. Advent services and Christmas Eve were taped and put on Facebook for viewing.

A big THANK YOU to Brian Block for handling the offering and finances of the church. Thank you to Deb Gehrke for taking reservations during COVID and all that have assisted when church services were in-person. We appreciate all that continue to attend and interact with us at services!

Vicki Walechka

Our Savior's Church Budget

	2021 Budget	2020 Spent	2020 Budget
ELCA BENEVOLENCE	\$12,857.00	\$14,337.00	\$12,199.00
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
MN RIVER CONFERENCE DUES	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
PASTOR'S SALARY	\$49,373.00	\$47,473.68	\$47,474.00
PASTOR'S MEDICAL INSURANCE	\$9,599.00	\$9,201.36	\$9,402.00
PASTOR'S PENSION	\$5,962.00	\$5,733.00	\$5,733.00
PULPIT SUPPLY	\$800.00	\$160.00	\$800.00
PARISH SECRETARY (NET PAY)	\$10,889.00	\$3,218.77	\$10,570.00
CUSTODIAN (NET PAY)	\$4,095.00	\$3,956.04	\$3,956.00
ORGANIST & DIRECTORS & ASSISTANTS	\$8,410.00	\$5,772.52	\$6,686.00
FICA TAX	\$4,775.00	\$2,924.86	\$4,398.00
FEDERAL & STATE WITHHOLDING TAX	\$1,553.00	\$902.00	\$1,572.00
PASTOR'S BOOKS & PERIODICALS	\$250.00	\$221.81	\$250.00
PASTOR'S BUSINESS EXPENSE	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$2,000.00	\$2,341.02	\$2,000.00
GOD SQUAD LEADER	\$1,902.00	\$1,847.04	\$1,847.00
EDUCATION	\$1,500.00	\$436.41	\$1,500.00
STAFF & EDUCATION BOOKS	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	\$2,500.00	\$5,027.36	\$2,500.00
CAR ALLOWANCE	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$2,000.00	\$1,985.16	\$1,500.00
CHURCH UTILITIES	\$5,500.00	\$4,942.11	\$5,500.00
CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	\$500.00	\$381.64	\$500.00
FIRE-WORK COM-LIABILITY INS.	\$7,200.00	\$7,045.50	\$6,800.00
PARSONAGE UTILITIES	\$2,500.00	\$2,232.75	\$2,500.00
PHONE EXPENSE	\$1,800.00	\$1,470.94	\$1,100.00
BOOKKEEPER	\$2,018.00	\$1,959.60	\$1,959.00
TOTALS	\$141,433.00	\$124,070.57	\$134,196.00

KEEP BENEVOLENCE AT 10%

PASTOR SALARY PACKAGE GIVES 4% RAISE TO \$49,373

PARISH SECRETARY GIVING A 3% RAISE.

CUSTIODIAN GIVING A 3% RAISE.

ORGANIST & DIRECTORS & ASSISTANTS GIVING A 3% RAISE.

BOOKKEEPER GIVING A 3% RAISE.

GOD SQUAD LEADER GIVING A 3% RAISE.

General Fund Giving

Balance on hand, December 31, 2019		\$8,714.86
Income		
Offering deposits	\$120,590.55	
Miscellaneous Income	\$17,687.25	
Total Income		\$138,277.80
		\$146,992.66
Expenses		
Withdrawals	\$124,070.57	
Transfer to Building & Property Maint. Fund	\$12,000.00	
Transfer to Family Emergency	\$1,000.00	
Transfer to Office Equipment	\$500.00	
Total		\$137,570.57
Balance on hand, December 31, 2020		\$9,422.09

RENTAL PROPERTY FUND

Balance on hand, December 31, 2019		\$ 15,982.19
Income		
Transfer from General Fund	\$ -	
Interest	\$ 6.66	
Total Income		\$ 6.66
		\$ 15,988.85
Expenses		
Jim Grabow	\$ 617.61	
Bob Gehrke	\$ 195.84	
Michaels Drywall	\$ 450.00	
St Peter Lumber	\$ 141.25	
Hardware Hank	\$ 246.63	
Total Expenses		\$ 1,651.33
Balance on hand, December 31, 20120		\$ 14,337.52

BUILDING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE FUND

Balance on hand, December 31, 2019		\$ 13,427.55
Income		
Offering deposits	\$ 2,400.00	
Transfer from General Fund	\$ 12,000.00	
Interest on Savings	\$ 6.07	
Total Income		\$ 14,406.07
		\$ 27,833.62
Expenses		
Plunketts Pest Control	\$ 320.57	
Ottawa Plumbing & Heating	\$ 722.60	
Mankato Fire & Safety	\$ 65.00	
Crossroads Electric	\$ 123.70	
Ballman Roofing	\$ 2,580.00	
Hardware Hank	\$ 20.00	
Le Sueur County	\$ 22.50	
Total Expenses		\$ 3,854.37
Balance on hand, December 31, 2020		\$ 23,979.25

OFFICE EQUIPMENT FUND

Balance on hand, December 31, 2019		\$ 2,309.52
Income		
Offering Deposit	\$ 500.00	
Transfer from General Fund	\$ 500.00	
Interest	\$ 0.89	
Total Income		\$ 500.89
		\$ 2,810.41
Expenses		
Pastor Liz-Laptop	1094.96	
Total Expenses		1094.96
Balance on hand, December 31, 2020		\$ 1,715.45

FAMILY EMERGENCY FUND

Balance on hand, December 31, 2019		\$ 1,803.61
Income		
Transfer from General Fund	\$ 1,000.00	
Interest Income	\$ 0.70	
Total Income		\$ 1,000.70
		\$ 2,804.31
Expenses		
Family in Need	500.00	
Total Expenses		500.00
Balance on hand, December 31, 2020		\$ 2,304.31

MEMORIAL FUND

Balance on hand, December 31, 2019		\$ 38,925.42
Income		
Offering Memorials	\$1,060.00	
Interest on savings	\$ 17.69	
Total Income		\$ 1,077.69
		\$ 40,003.11
Expenses		
	0.00	
Total Expenses		0.00
Balance on hand, December 31, 2020		\$ 40,003.11

Faith Formation Fund

Balance on hand, December 31, 2019		\$ 7,103.48
Income		
Offering	\$ 3.10	
Interest	\$ 3.22	
Total Income		\$ 6.32
		\$ 7,109.80
Expenses		
	\$ -	
Total Expenses		\$ -
Balance on hand, December 31, 2020		\$ 7,109.80



Southeastern Minnesota Synod

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Welcome to the new year! Many of us are entering 2021 full of hope; 2020 was a year of unexpected challenges. There were disappointments: canceling our 2020 Synod Assembly ranks among them, as I was so looking forward to gathering with all of you. There were steep learning curves: moving worship and gatherings to digital platforms. There were radical adjustments: finding new ways to connect when in-person visits were unsafe, learning to work from home while caring for those who depend on us, to name a few.

Yet, as I reflect on 2020, I am filled with deep gratitude. In the face of a quickly and constantly changing reality, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod rose to the occasion. You learned to worship in new ways. You reinvented confirmation, Sunday school, and adult education. You found new, primarily outdoor, spaces to gather in. You found ways to continue your outreach to your communities and beyond. You proclaimed the gospel with grace and fervent hope.

It has not always been easy. There have been moments of tension, fear, and uncertainty. There have also been moments of joy, creativity, and sacred spaces.

As I reflect on 2020 and look forward to 2021, I am immensely grateful to be called to serve among you. As we look to another year of ministry, I pray we will continue to be full of grace, truth, courage, and hope. I pray that the lessons we have learned will continue to shape and inform us. I pray we will remain open to the work of the Holy Spirit, and I trust, by God's grace, we will continue to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thank you, dear church, for your tenacity and generosity. Thanks be to God for God's faithfulness in all things.

Our work continues. If you have not yet taken space for deep Sabbath rest—please do so (and ensure the people around you do too!). No matter what our new year brings, our call to proclaim the gospel remains. May God gift us with all we need to share this Good News!

In Christ,

Bishop Regina Hassanally



A message from

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

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

Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

Building up the body of Christ together,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

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

Our Savior's Contact Information

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Treasurer, Brian Block 507/ 560-0050 lecenterhh@gmail.com

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Deb Gehrke 507/381-0815 gehrkebd74@gmail.com

In-Person Worship Reservations

(when healthy and safety permit)

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or

Call or text Deb Gehrke

(507)381-0815