

**Annual Report of the
Congregation
2020**



St Thomas
Lutheran Church

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**ST THOMAS LUTHERAN CHURCH
GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN 2020**

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Bill Stevenson
VICE PRESIDENT	Open
SECRETARY	Rebecca Arndt
TREASURER	Kent Kujala
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Timothy Perry

CHURCH COUNCIL

<i><u>TERMS EXPIRING JANUARY 2021</u></i>	<i><u>TERMS EXPIRING JANUARY 2022</u></i>	<i><u>TERMS EXPIRING JANUARY 2023</u></i>	<i><u>TERMS EXPIRING JANUARY 2024</u></i>
Betty Ruck	Rebecca Arndt	Jim Schiesel	TBD*
Bill Stevenson	Linda Hinzman	Ben Fogt	TBD*
Alaina Gartner	TBD*	Christine Riley	TBD*
Ethan Bammer	Alaina Gardner*		
	Ethan Bammer*		

*Pending approval by the congregation.

STAFF

Pastor: Open

Adm. Assistant: Lisa Perry

Audio/Video Director: Betty Ruck

Custodian: Open

Director of Youth and Family Ministry: Open

Director of Hospitality: Linda Landis

Pianists & Music Leaders: Karen Skrocki & Jeff Kline

Musicians: Bob Krzeczowski, Erin Shelton

PASTOR'S REPORT

The year 2020 had its share of hardship and grief, not the least was the resignation of Rev. Heather Oberlin as our pastor of St. Thomas. And while the pandemic forced modification or cancellation of much of our ministries, there was still good news for St. Thomas Lutheran Church. Of course, the Good News is the Gospel proclaiming salvation through Jesus Christ.

The highlights of 2020 demonstrate the resilience and resolve of the People of St. Thomas.

- We adapted to the COVID-19 closures by implementing safety protocols when we were able to worship in person. Attendance on Thursdays and Sundays was steady and growing.
- We were able to successfully move to online worship and archive past sermons and services.
- We continued to have office hours, and learned to Zoom for Council meetings, and in January 2021 are offering Zoom Sunday School and Zoom Catechism.
- We praise our quilters who were able to continue their good work, pausing until April, 2021.
- We continued our ministries, albeit reduced, with World Medical Relief, Dongobesh Secondary School and our sister congregation, Basotu in Tanzania, Grace in Action in Detroit, and ChristNet.
- We began the Call process with the formation of the committee: Dr. Brian Long, Nancy Graver, Darcie Bammer, Sandi Loso, Bob Arndt, Andrea Stevenson, Ben Fogt, and Lauren Hinzmann. They adeptly completed the Ministry Site Profile, and are working with the Synod to find our next spiritual leader.
- We continued to support the Church financially through our regular giving and special campaigns.
- We were prudent in the management of our resources, delaying our Capital Fund expenditures. We are blessed in having \$140,500 pledged and are in receipt of \$126,957. To date we have spent according to plan, \$60,939 with a balance of \$66,018 on December 31, 2020.
- We graciously accepted \$7,500 from John and Patricia Hartig, with matching fund possibilities to promote an endowment added to the memorial of Virginia Hartig.
- We wait for deliverance from all evil, looking to carry on the mission of God's Church, in the joyful hope for the coming of our savior Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted in the stead of the Pastor,

Bill Stevenson

President Church Council

2020 COUNCIL REPORT

Dear Beloved St. Thomas Family,

To say the year 2020 was a challenge, would be the understatement of the century. Our daily lives were radically altered in so many ways that affected us both individually and collectively. Most frustrating was our inability to worship in person together, advance our ministries, and share our faith and fellowship with each other and the communities we serve.

In the on again, off again response to the global pandemic which hit home, St. Thomas suffered additional losses. The Montessori school, who had been a tenant for more than ten years, abruptly closed its doors. Our pastor resigned, citing personal reasons which precluded continuing her ministry at St. Thomas. We were closed. We were opened. We were temporarily “paused.” Oh, and we were further isolated when the County Free Bridge was closed for an indeterminate time.

In the midst of all this, your Church Staff and Church Council figured out ways to carry on the good work of the Church, virtually and in reality. After all, we are Real People, in Real Life, with Real Faith working through unreal times.

The entire congregation owes a great deal of thanks to our dedicated Church Staff: Lisa and Tim Perry, Betty Ruck, Linda Landis, Jeff Kline, Karen Skrocki, Bob Krzeczowski, and Erin Shelton. We also thank Pastor Duane Schafer who served as a supply pastor through the month of October, and are grateful that Vicars Amelia and Daniel Collins have committed to leading our worship, both online, and when able, in person.

Your Church Council has tried to steer the vessel of the Church through these turbulent seas.

Prayers of thanks are given to Becky Arndt, Ben Fogt, Christine Riley, Betty Ruck, Jim Schiesel, Ethan Bammer, and Alaina Gartner. Special thanks to Dr. Brian Long, who served for six years on Council, and now leads the Call Committee.

As always, your Church Council takes its fiduciary responsibility seriously, and has continued to prudently manage our resources through this financially difficult time. It is through the grace of God, and the steadfast economic support of our faithful congregation that we were and still are able to advance the work to which God has called us. And call us, He still does. There is much work still to be done.

As we move into a new year, may we take heart in the words of St. Paul to the Romans 8; 35, 38-39: “Who shall separate us from the Love of Christ? . . . For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the Love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

May the year 2021 see us grow in Faith, Hope, and Love—together again.

Yours in Christ,
Bill Stevenson
2020 Council President

2020 STATISTICAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP

Child members beginning of 2020		116
Accessions with parents	-	
Accessions by baptism	-	
	-	
Child members confirmed	-	
Other losses	-	
Total losses	-	-
Child members end of 2020		116
Confirmed members beginning of 2020		391
Accessions by baptism	-	
Accessions by confirmation	-	
Other accessions	3	
Total accessions	3	
Losses by death	(3)	
Other losses	-	
Total losses	(3)	-
Confirmed members end of 2020		391

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY BY YEARS

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Conf.	58	184	229	308	320	322	346	356	378	392	394	394	391	392
Children	42	79	76	92	87	90	101	99	108	109	116	113	116	116
Total	100	263	305	400	407	412	447	455	486	501	510	507	507	508

Finances through the years - total financial giving (does not include building use)

		<u>Program Grant</u>	<u>Reg. Ben.</u>	<u>Other Benevolence</u>	<u>Good Sam</u>
1963 -	\$ 7,960	\$3,600	\$1,488		
1973 -	25,480	1,800	2,813		
1983 -	68,059		6,028	142	72
1993 -	154,352		15,200	377	1,083
2003 -	221,257		22,756	8,697	850
2008 -	213,860		20,312	2,527	1,084
2009 -	196,319		13,522	1,385	902
2010 -	207,549		17,352	1,463	691
2011 -	227,341		15,000	2,832	1,688
2013 -	219,167	\$74,309 (Cap.)	10,000	6,507	1,816
2014 -	236,312	\$51,970 (Cap.)	12,123	4,252	1,190
2015 -	227,148	\$26,508 (Cap.)	14,004	3,050	1,116
2016 -	211,864		14,004	2,075	1,758
2017 -	204,746		7,224	2,625	1,077
2018 -	205,807		6,000	0	817
2019 -	198,342		4,996	1,650	1,010
2020 -					

Not included above: gifts given in kind, special giving such as memorial gifts, Christnet, or local outreach

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE (average)

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Ave. Att.</u>
Jan.	78	110	138	107	95	75	117	154	116	117	82	84	88	1982-105
Feb.	81	115	114	98	89	88	127	129	121	115	72	94	93	1998-144
Mar.	94	128	130	107	90	76	116	139	134	136	90	83	84	2007-119
Apr.	102	151	152	109	107	93	150	140	130	142	88	103	0	2009-87
May	95	123	144	100	89	97	116	141	132	136	99	89	0	2010-98
Jun.	79	117	110	112	70	88	121	119	100	113	81	99	0	2011-116
Jul.	58	87	95	79	62	76	100	109	96	65	73	83	42	2013-129
Aug.	62	91	85	67	61	93	93	107	101	64	86	113	37	2016-117
Sep.	81	120	117	150	71	106	132	126	117	73	84	80	47	2017-103
Oct.	83	131	146	124	102	112	135	127	117	80	93	86	41	2018-87
Nov.	91	135	134	105	96	120	135	129	124	97	84	80	36	2019-85
Dec.	107	153	140	125	101	125	147	134	113	102	104	98	0	2020-58

2020 TREASURER'S REPORT

Year in Review – 2020

St Thomas was blessed to have received \$173,145 for ongoing ministries through the faithful and generous giving of our congregational members. We also received \$26,298 from a government program “Payroll Protection Plan” or PPP loan. We have received notice that this loan has been forgiven.

Our Capital Campaign received \$140,500 in pledges and \$126,957 has been received to date. Facility improvements expenditures total \$60,939 to date.

The mortgage principle was reduced by \$5,680. The remaining balance on the mortgage is \$214,081.

Submitted by: Kent Kujala

2020 CAPITAL FUNDS CAMPAIGN

Your Church Council has always prayerfully considered the overall needs of the church. We acknowledge that our building is aging and in need of repairs that go beyond the ongoing maintenance of our facilities. At a special meeting, called on April 24, 2019, the Council unanimously approved a recommendation to present to the entire congregation, per our Church Constitution, a proposal to begin a capital campaign to meet our facilities infrastructure needs.

On Sunday, May 19, 2019, the congregation by acclamation approved a capital funds campaign, "Taking Care of God's House," to raise \$150,000 over a period not to exceed three years. Work was to be completed by phases:

PHASE I

- Remove, repair, and paint steeple
- Repair leaking steeple roof
- Remount steeple with new supports
- Flash and shingle main roof
- Replace all three flat roofs

PHASE II

- Replace broken concrete and steps
- Add curbs to protect concrete walkway
- Mudjack/caulk concrete by handicap door
- Tuck point/repair brick wall by education wing entrance
- Update microphones to be FCC compliant

PHASE III

- Resurface asphalt parking lot

*Any remaining money will be added to our maintenance fund for future needs.

As of this writing, \$140,500 have been pledged. \$126,957 have been received to date.

Phase One work has been completed at a cost of \$55,800. Parts of Phase II have been completed with mudjacking/concrete leveling for \$700. The microphone receiver installation was finished at a cost of \$4,039.

The balance as of 12/31/2020 is \$66,018. Work on the remaining items in Phase II and Phase III are dependent on weather, continued issues with the bridge access to Grosse Ile, and the ready availability of funds.

As we move forward in faith, may we continue to do God's work in Building to Serve.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

With God's Blessing,

Your St. Thomas Church Council

2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

	<u>2021 Proposed Budget</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>
<u>Income:</u>			
All Sources			
415	Current - Total Envelopes	\$162,745	\$153,840
420	Loose Offering	\$2,700	\$2,700
425	Special Services	\$4,300	\$4,300
435	Miscellaneous Income	\$2,500	\$2,500
445	Interest Income	\$400	\$500
464	Building Use - Montessori	\$0	\$28,200
463	Building Use - All Other	\$500	\$1,400
	Total Income	\$173,145	\$193,440
<u>Expenses:</u>			
Ministry of the Pastor			
501	Salary	tbd	\$46,570
505	Social Security	tbd	\$5,225
520	Pension, Health, Life Ins.	tbd	\$14,210
521	Pastor's Bus. Ex.	tbd	\$1,850
550	Housing Allowance	tbd	\$22,000
	Total Ministry of the Pastor	\$75,000	\$89,855
Church Bldg. & Property			
601	Utilities - Church	\$11,000	\$11,700
605	Telephone internet - Church	\$2,000	\$3,820
610	Property & Liab. Ins.	\$4,900	\$4,555
625	Repair & Maint. - Church	\$5,723	\$5,000
626	Custodian	\$3,600	\$3,600
640	Mortgage Interest	\$7,920	\$7,198
641	Mortgage Principle	\$11,376	\$10,262
	Total Bldg. & Property	\$46,519	\$46,135

2021 PROPOSED BUDGET - Continued

<u>2021 Proposed Budget (cont.)</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>
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Expenses Continued:

Parish Administration

701	Clerical Wages & Benefits	\$15,600	\$18,000	\$14,713
705	FICA	\$3,000	\$3,120	\$2,110
710	Postage, Print., Paper	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$2,959
715	Financial Supplies & Bank Fees	\$1,805	\$1,455	\$1,909
720	Repair & Maint. - Office Equip.	\$0	\$1,430	\$825
725	Publicity	\$380	\$0	\$379
730	Misc. Expense	\$1,500	\$750	\$1,509
741	Youth & Family Wages	\$0	\$3,900	\$825
743	Sound Tech Wages	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$360
744	Hospitality Wages	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$4,925
Total Parish Admin		\$31,185	\$36,055	\$30,514

Ministry of Worship

801	Benevolence - Synod	\$2,400	\$5,000	\$2,920
805	Bulletins, Inserts, Certificates	\$50	\$50	\$0
806	Altar Supplies	\$400	\$400	\$185
815	Subscriptions -- Books	\$1,250	\$0	\$1,241
825	Fellowship	\$750	\$750	\$21
830	Interfaith Council	\$200	\$200	\$200
835	Sunday School & VBS	\$1,150	\$1,150	\$352
846	Music Leadership Wages	\$11,170	\$11,170	\$6,236
848	Supply Pastor	\$750	\$750	\$5,143
850	Evangelism	\$125	\$125	\$0
855	Social Ministry & Outreach	\$300	\$300	\$0
860	Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$504
865	Youth Activities	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
870	Worship & Music - Other	\$700	\$500	\$830
875	Flowers	\$0	\$0	\$54
Total Ministry of Worship		\$20,245	\$21,395	\$17,686

Total Expenses	\$172,949	\$193,440	\$158,325
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Surplus/Loss from Operations	\$196	\$0	\$17,510
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DECEMBER 2020 BALANCE SHEET

Dec 31, 20

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
100 - Current	
101 - Maintenance Escrow	29,303.63
102 - Memorials	10,983.67
103 - Good Samaritan	2,852.16
104 - Aller Scholarship Fund	3,672.50
107 - Memorial Garden	8,796.33
108 - Capital Campaign Funds at PCSU	66,418.00
117 - WELCA General	3,925.07
118 - Quilters	207.54
124 - Mortgage Reserve	10,049.62
125 - Church Mission	5,585.46
140 - PCSU /Savings	50.29
100 - Current - Other	69,917.56
Total 100 - Current	<u>211,761.83</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>211,761.83</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>211,761.83</u>
Fixed Assets	
111 - Land - 9393 Church Road	31,641.73
112 - Building - 9393 Church Road	95,704.87
115 - Building Expansion #1 - 1988	302,252.16
116 - Building Expansion #2 - 2001	1,087,503.78
Total Fixed Assets	<u>1,517,102.54</u>
Other Assets	
109 - MIF Endowment - Hartig	10,000.00
130 - Deposits & Prepayments	96.00
Total Other Assets	<u>10,096.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>1,738,960.37</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
205 - Withheld Federal Taxes	688.50
207 - Withheld Michigan Taxes	504.56
210 - Special Maintenance Escrow	856.35
215 - Memorials & Endowments	29,380.00
216 - Memorial Garden Prepay-Smolak	400.00
217 - WELCA	3,925.07
218 - Quilters	207.54
220 - Good Samaritan Fund	2,330.26
225 - Aller Scholarship Fund	3,672.50
240 - Mortgage Reserve Payable	10,049.62
245 - Fund Raising/Project Payable	2,223.96
260 - Deferred Revenue	1,300.00
265 - Miscellaneous Payables	1,997.01
266 - Misc. Payables - Piano/Organ	1,150.00
268 - Capital Funds Payable	66,418.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>125,103.37</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>125,103.37</u>
Long Term Liabilities	
250 - Mortgage - Church	214,080.15
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>214,080.15</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>339,183.52</u>
Equity	
3000 - Opening Bal Equity	1,022,206.01
3900 - Retained Earnings	333,421.06
Net Income	44,149.78
Total Equity	<u>1,399,776.85</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>1,738,960.37</u></u>

2020 INCOME STATEMENT

	Jan - Dec 20	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
402 · Benevolence-Disaster/Hunger	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
403 · Basotu-Mbulu Synod	1,699.00	-	1,699.00
410 · Benevolence-Special	110.00	-	110.00
420 · Loose Offering	993.00	2,700.00	(1,707.00)
425 · Special Services	1,040.00	4,300.00	(3,260.00)
435 · Miscellaneous Income	2,530.07	2,500.00	30.07
440 · Flowers	50.00	-	50.00
445 · Interest Income	433.96	500.00	(66.04)
460 · Building Use			-
463 · Other	\$ 395.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ (1,005.00)
464 · Building Use - Montessori	10,600.00	28,200.00	(17,600.00)
Total 460 · Building Use	\$ 10,995.00	\$ 29,600.00	\$ (18,605.00)
490 · Total Envelopes			
408 · Evangelism	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
415 · Current	159,842.80	153,840.00	6,002.80
Total 490 · Total Envelopes	\$ 160,042.80	\$ 153,840.00	\$ 6,202.80
Total Income	\$ 177,993.83	\$ 193,440.00	\$ (15,446.17)
Expense			
500 · Ministry of the Pastor			
501 · Salary-Pastor	\$ 40,702.56	\$ 46,570.00	\$ 5,867.44
505 · Social Security - Pastor	3,916.98	5,225.00	1,308.02
520 · Pension,Health, Life Ins.	11,511.31	14,210.00	2,698.69
521 · Pastor Business Expense-Cell	1,430.00	1,850.00	420.00
550 · Housing Allowance	16,500.06	22,000.00	5,499.94
Total 500 · Ministry of the Pastor	\$ 74,060.91	\$ 89,855.00	\$ 15,794.09
600 · Church Buildings & Properties			
601 · Utilities - Church	\$ 8,568.04	\$ 11,700.00	\$ 3,131.96
605 · Phone/Internet/Web	2,264.63	3,820.00	1,555.37
610 · Property & Liability Ins.	4,654.50	4,555.00	(99.50)
625 · Repair & Maint. - Church	5,993.66	5,000.00	(993.66)
626 · Custodian	975.00	3,600.00	2,625.00
640 · Mortgage Interest - Church	7,926.62	7,198.00	(728.62)
641 · Mortgage Principal	5,680.42	10,262.00	4,581.58
Total 600 · Church Buildings & Properties	\$ 36,062.87	\$ 46,135.00	\$ 10,072.13
6560 · Payroll Expenses	-	-	-
66900 · Reconciliation Discrepancies	\$ 119.33	\$ -	\$ (119.33)
700 · Parish Administration			
701 · Clerical Wages & Benefits	\$ 14,712.50	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 3,287.50
705 · FICA Expense	2,110.49	3,120.00	1,009.51
710 · Postage,Printing & Stationery	2,958.64	1,000.00	(1,958.64)
715 · Financial Supplies & Bank Fees	1,908.55	1,455.00	(453.55)
720 · Repair & Maint Office Equipment	825.37	1,430.00	604.63
725 · Publicity	379.10	-	(379.10)
730 · Misc. Expenses	1,508.53	750.00	(758.53)
741 · Youth & Family Wages	825.00	3,900.00	3,075.00
743 · Sound Tech	360.00	1,200.00	840.00
744 · Hospitality Wages	4,925.00	5,200.00	275.00
Total 700 · Parish Administration	\$ 30,513.18	\$ 36,055.00	\$ 5,541.82
800 · Ministry of Worship			
801 · Benevolence - Synod	\$ 2,920.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,080.00
803 · Benev-Basotu/Mbulu	1,699.00	-	(1,699.00)
805 · Bulletins, Inserts, Certicates	-	50.00	50.00
806 · Altar Supplies	185.15	400.00	214.85
815 · Subscriptions - Books	1,240.75	-	(1,240.75)
825 · Fellowship	21.30	750.00	728.70
830 · Interfaith Council	200.00	200.00	-
835 · SunSchool/Nursery/ VBS	352.25	1,150.00	797.75
846 · Music Leadership Wages	6,235.60	11,170.00	4,934.40
848 · Fee for Substitute Pastor	5,143.05	750.00	(4,393.05)
850 · Evangelism	-	125.00	125.00
855 · Soc. Min. & Outreach	-	300.00	300.00
860 · Stewardship/Finance	503.94	-	(503.94)
865 · Youth Activities	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
870 · Worship & Music - Other	830.22	500.00	(330.22)
875 · Flowers Expense	54.00	-	(54.00)
Total 800 · Ministry of Worship	\$ 19,385.26	\$ 21,395.00	\$ 2,009.74
Total Expense	\$ 160,141.55	\$ 193,440.00	\$ 33,298.45
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 17,852.28	\$ -	\$ 17,852.28
Plus One-Time PPP Loan Forgiveness	26,297.50	-	26,297.50
Net Income	\$ 44,149.78	\$ -	\$ 44,149.78

2020 LADIES GROUP

The year 2020 was very atypical for the women's groups that gather at St. Thomas Lutheran Church.

- Due to the pandemic, weekly lunch, dinner and theater nights, and craft nights were cancelled.
- The Ladies' lunch group met at Smokies' Restaurant on the second Tuesday of the month until suspended by the March COVID closure.
- In April we started collecting materials and Betty Ruck put together kits for over 500 cloth masks. The kits included illustrated directions for sewing as well as links to DIY videos. A group of 8 volunteers worked tirelessly to sew the masks. They were distributed free to seniors, health care workers, friends, families, children and anyone who messaged us on Facebook. We even had them available in the narthex at church. Twenty-five kits were dropped off for the ladies at Grace in Action. Connecting with people in the community in need of these masks was very fulfilling.
- Prayer Shawls were given to a number of people this year. These shawls are blessed by the pastor and given by members of the Ladies group when possible.
- Linda Landis led a group of ladies in making cheerful cards for seniors. The idea was to have them put into mailboxes at places like American House. Plans will be made to send these out as soon as restrictions are lifted.

2020 PROPERTY REPORT

2020 Upgrades, Enhancements and Improvements:

- Floor jacking done on Education Wing due to sinking
- Four classrooms patched and painted
- Hallway and Reception Room patched and painted
- Hallway and Reception Room floors stripped and waxed
- Carpets cleaned in Pastor's office and Secretary's office
- All rooms sanitized and cleaned routinely since the onset of Covid19
- Classrooms emptied of all Montessori items upon their lease termination
- New electrical plugs and switches installed in Educational Wing
- Window blinds and screen replaced in Educational Classrooms
- New hot water tank installed in Educational Wing furnace room
- Front door stabilizer arm repaired and doors readjusted
- Alarm system fixed twice
- Toilet parts replaced, and light bulbs as needed
- All filters replaced in three furnaces; Educational Wing floor vents cleaned
- Kitchen floor stripped and waxed
- New mulch delivered, spread by a crew of church members
- Toys and equipment in playground repaired, power washed and sanitized
- Playground reseeded, perimeter border re-outlined and mulched
- Landscaping trees and bushes replaced, pruned, and removed
- Dumpster fence repaired again
- Three sheds repaired, caulked, drainage improved and repainted
- Windows inside and out professionally cleaned
- New sprinkler system with timer
- Ongoing maintenance is required all year regardless of the sporadic closings

I would like to take this opportunity give thanks for the generous support and the many donors who have graciously helped me throughout the year. Your time, talents, skills and funding have truly made all of these accomplishments possible.

Gratefully Yours,

Linda L. Landis

2020 ST. THOMAS WELCA REPORT

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN AMERICA

WELCA purpose statement: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

The WELCA Group has dwindled but still continued on with traditional events aided by volunteers throughout the year. Tim Perry serves as the bookkeeper. Agnes Kujala collected money from book sales and quilts and give it to Tim for deposit. Ethel Yops and Gayle Withey are back-ups for WELCA.

2020 Highlights

- **The Edward R. Aller Scholarship** was established in 1992 by the WELCA group in honor of the 25th anniversary of Pastor Aller's ordination. Since that time 54 recipients have been awarded scholarships totaling \$27,000! This year four St. Thomas high school seniors were awarded \$500 each: **Ryan Brozek, Joe Davis, Josh Davis, and Abby Ewbank**. All recipients were distinguished in school, community, and church activities. Two scholarships were provided by Marcia Aller and the Rev. Edward R. Aller Memorial Fund. The other two scholarships were provided by WELCA. Individuals generously donated \$750 to the fund this year.
- **Linda Landis continues to serve as Hospitality Director**. Many events (Easter breakfast, Soup Suppers, the cookie walk set-up, Interfaith Lent Suppers, and other fellowship opportunities) were not conducted this year due to the pandemic. Linda was active in the cleaning and sanitizing of the building during periods of in-person worship and cleaning and maintenance throughout the year. She also coordinated rental of Fellowship Hall until the church closed.
- The quilters remained active with a reduced force of about 6 workers for much of the year but closed down eventually when the COVID cases in Michigan rose in November. Despite the reduction in numbers of quilters, an impressive 97 quilts were donated in October to Lutheran World Relief - delivered by Kent Kujala and Dan Kujala. A few additional quilts were sold and \$30.00 was raised.
- The Book Sale organized by Agnes Kujala had a healthy profit of \$115.00 with many books shared and exchanged.
- The office workers –Agnes Kujala, Gayle Withey and Ethel Yops --helped with assorted tasks until the church closed in March. Gayle Withey continued to help mail out weekly newsletters to those without access to internet. Although there was a brief resumption of limited in-person worship, services did not utilize bulletins, so the paper work in the office was greatly reduced.
- Finally, Sandi Loso continued to collect for the Sacred Heart Food Pantry. The poor economy and pandemic have resulted in greater need and collections have been encouraged.

WELCA looks forward to a resumption of activities in the spring or summer of 2021!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Sunday School and Nursery

- During the school year, our students divide into two classes by age to learn. Lessons are tailored for each age group.
- Sunday School was held in-person from January through March 15. Attendance averaged between 5 to 12 students per week.
- From March 22 through year-end, Sunday School lessons prepared by Pastor Heather were emailed to families. An Advent Trivia Card game was also mailed out for use during Advent Season and was well-received.
- Many thanks to our teachers who volunteer their time and talents to educate our young people – Wendy Brozek, Bob Dickason, Anna Gartner, Heather Lakatos, Marge Noyce and Tim Perry.
- For 2021, we will be using Group Publishing's Dig In curriculum, which allows teachers to select lessons and activities each week to tailor it to their students. Sunday School will be held by Zoom meeting until conditions allow in person classes.

Confirmation Class

- Confirmation class was led by Pastor Heather in person from January to March and online from April to June.
- Jeffrey Kline and Kathie Kline are jointly organizing and leading the class online for the Fall and will continue into the New Year.
- This academic year, the focus will be on the New Testament, the next year will be Luther's catechism. The following year will focus on the Old Testament. The rotation will then repeat.
- No students were confirmed this year.

Vacation Bible School

- There was no Vacation Bible School this year due to the Corona Virus Pandemic.

Youth Night

- Youth Night was canceled from March through December due to the Corona Virus Pandemic

Youth Director

- The Youth Director position is presently open. Thanks to Lori Bartos who led Youth activities through March 16.
- Position duties are presently being performed by volunteers.

INTERFAITH COUNCIL

This year, the year of COVID, the Interfaith Council canceled all activities except ChristNet. We were asked to provide breakfast supplies and the dinners. Due to safety concerns, guests were housed in donated rooms at a motel. It was decided to have a local restaurant prepare the meals. Jeff Kline obtained fresh fruit and packaged and delivered breakfasts to the distribution site. These meals and the breakfast supplies came to a cost of just over \$1,800. Each church on the island gave \$200. The remainder was from individual donations. Many thanks go to our congregation for donating \$850.

Submitted by Jeff Kline



St. Thomas Lutheran Positioning Statement:

*St Thomas Lutheran Church is an inviting and caring environment
Nurtured by God's Love where individuals and families
Grow in faith to meet the challenges of life.*

St Thomas Mission:

*Our Mission is
To celebrate God's love through serving
Embrace it in our own lives
Reach out to our neighbors
And actively pass it on to new generations.*

*real people.
real life.
real faith.*