

Annual Report of the Congregation 2021



St Thomas Lutheran Church

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**ST THOMAS LUTHERAN CHURCH
GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN 48138**

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Ben Fogt
VICE PRESIDENT	Jim Schiesel
SECRETARY	Rebecca Arndt
TREASURER	Kent Kujala

CHURCH COUNCIL

<i><u>TERMS EXPIRING JANUARY 2022</u></i>	<i><u>TERMS EXPIRING JANUARY 2023</u></i>	<i><u>TERMS EXPIRING JANUARY 2024</u></i>	<i><u>TERMS EXPIRING JANUARY 2025</u></i>
Rebecca Arndt	Jim Schiesel	Salvatore Finazzo	Betty Ruck*
Betty Ruck	Ben Fogt	Matt Shelton	TBD*
Cam Finazzo	Christine Riley	TBD*	TBD*

*Pending approval by the congregation.

STAFF

Pastor: Chaplains Daniel and Amelia Collins

Adm. Assistant: Lisa Perry

Financial Secretary: Tim Perry

Audio/Video Director: Betty Ruck

Custodian: Jackie Noles

Director of Youth and Family Ministry: Open

Director of Hospitality: Linda Landis

Director of Worship and Music: Jeff Kline

Musicians: Bob Krzeczowski, Erin Shelton

2021 PASTOR'S REPORT

Dearly Beloved,

Grace and peace be to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We give thanks to God for your faithfulness and stewardship of St Thomas, our Lutheran witness here on Grosse Ile. It has been our pride and pleasure to minister with you over these past months.

We need not mention the drastic changes that we have experienced in the past two years- in our congregation, our Christian faith, our country, and our world. Inevitable though it may be, change challenges us to new and innovative methods of being church- "creative fidelity," as theologian Timothy Ware calls it.

There are a number of changes that have yet to be made for St Thomas in the years to come- a revitalized Youth and Family Ministry, updated technology, and various property repairs and improvements. We proudly report that in November, the Finance Committee launched the most successful stewardship campaign in our recent history, and many of these improvements are now within the realm of possibility.

Even so, we must ask you for your continued support in this coming year, which will be monumental for this congregation. We are set to graduate seminary in anticipation of ordination to pastoral ministry this May. The process of calling a minister is complicated; regardless of whether it is one of us or someone else who is called to St Thomas in the near future, your continued support is greatly appreciated and necessary to usher in a new era of growth for our congregation.

We know that this congregation is capable of great things- of become a sure, spiritual safe haven for the people of Grosse Ile in the stormy waters of these trying and uncertain times. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

Your Chaplains,
Amelia and Daniel Collins

2021 COUNCIL REPORT

Fellow Members of St Thomas,

What can be said about the past year? I just reread last year's report and some things are surprisingly similar and yet different.

We started this year with a Call Committee preparing to welcome candidates for our call. Several factors led Council to hire Amelia and Daniel Collins to lead our professional ministries until their graduations from United Lutheran Seminary in May 2022. We have already begun the discernment process alongside the Collinses regarding our future ministries. (A lot of factors are at play right now.)

We ended 2020 with some capital improvements being delayed because of the pandemic and the bridge construction. The larger of those, the replacement of our sidewalks and parking lot have been delayed again to next year, but we should see those projects completed in the Spring. The steps leading to our entrances have been repaired along with some of the brickwork. None of us envisioned these projects being delayed so long, but it has been an unpredictable time.

You might recall from my letters to the congregation that I wanted to build up our committees. The Evangelism, Worship, Education, Mutual Ministry and Stewardship Committees have been meeting regularly and are doing great work. The Evangelism team has tried to have at least one outreach activity each month and has been successful in engaging the community. The Worship and Education teams have had a hard task before them to try to get us back to "normal" in a way that is safe and welcoming. The Mutual Ministry has done some important work helping the Collinses become a part of our community at St Thomas and in Grosse Ile. Our Stewardship team had done some heavy lifting. From managing the budget to a newly imagined campaign in November, their work behind the scenes should be commended by everyone.

In addition, Council created a Technology Committee which is devoted to helping us improve the way we worship and communicate, virtually and in person. That team has made it a priority to train more people to operate our video and sound systems for worship.

We have not succeeded in getting teams started for the Property and Social Ministry Committees. They are a priority heading into the new year. These groups are important to help us do the work of being the church. Our building has some large projects to begin in the winter and spring that would run smoother with the oversight of some St Thomas members.

Our Social Ministry work has been directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, to be sure. But we have kept and exceeded our pledge to ChristNet several times. We need some of our faithful brothers and sisters to help us sustain that attention and renew our relationships with our other ministry partners.

Council and the committees have worked hard to reintroduce St Thomas to our neighbors. We have brainstormed and implemented new ways to be the same church in a time that keeps us guessing. I think that the result of that is a dramatic increase of awareness of who we are and what we are about in our community. We look to build on that in 2022.

Ben Fogt
Council President
St Thomas Lutheran Church, Grosse Ile

2021 STATISTICAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP

Child members beginning of 2021			99
Accessions with parents	2		
Accessions by baptism	<u>1</u>		
		3	
Child members confirmed	(1)		
Other losses	<u>-</u>		
Total losses		<u>(1)</u>	<u>-</u>
Child members end of 2021			101
Confirmed members beginning of 2021			389
Accessions by baptism	-		
Accessions by confirmation	1		
Other accessions	<u>6</u>		
Total accessions		7	
Losses by death	(2)		
Other losses	<u>(4)</u>		
Total losses		<u>(6)</u>	<u>-</u>
Confirmed members end of 2021			390

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY BY YEARS

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Conf.	58	184	229	308	320	322	356	378	392	394	394	391	389	390
Children	<u>42</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>101</u>
Total	100	263	305	400	407	412	455	486	501	510	507	507	488	491

Finances through the years - total financial giving (does not include PPP Loan)

		<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
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	\$95,104 (Cap.)	4,996	1,650	1,010
2020 -	177,984	\$31,853 (Cap.)	2,920	200	162
2021 -	155,979	\$9,550 (Cap.)	2,496	0	455

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>2010</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Ave. Att.</u>
Jan.	78	110	138	107	75	117	154	116	117	82	84	88	0	1982-105
Feb.	81	115	114	98	88	127	129	121	115	72	94	93	29	1998-144
Mar.	94	128	130	107	76	116	139	134	136	90	83	84	39	2007-119
Apr.	102	151	152	109	93	150	140	130	142	88	103	0	61	2010-98
May	95	123	144	100	97	116	141	132	136	99	89	0	57	2011-116
Jun.	79	117	110	112	88	121	119	100	113	81	99	0	54	2013-129
Jul.	58	87	95	79	76	100	109	96	65	73	83	42	46	2016-117
Aug.	62	91	85	67	93	93	107	101	64	86	113	37	53	2017-103
Sep.	81	120	117	150	106	132	126	117	73	84	80	47	60	2018-87
Oct.	83	131	146	124	112	135	127	117	80	93	86	41	56	2019-85
Nov.	91	135	134	105	120	135	129	124	97	84	80	36	53	2020-58
Dec.	107	153	140	125	125	147	134	113	102	104	98	0	48	2021-57

2021 TREASURER'S REPORT

Year in Review – 2021

St Thomas was blessed to have received \$150,230 for ongoing ministries through the faithful and generous giving of our congregational members. We also received \$23,141 from a government program “Payroll Protection Plan” or PPP loan. We have received notice that this loan has been forgiven.

Our Capital Campaign received \$141,100 in pledges and \$136,507 has been received to date. Facility improvements expenditures total \$66,219 to date.

The mortgage principle was reduced by \$11,676 in 2021. The remaining balance on the mortgage is \$202,404.

Submitted by: Kent Kujala

2021 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
- Mud-jack/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, \$141,100 has been pledged. \$136,507 has been received to date.

Phase One work has been completed at a cost of \$55,800. Parts of Phase II have been completed with mud-jacking/concrete leveling and tuck pointing completed at a cost of \$5,980. The microphone receiver installation was finished at a cost of \$4,039.

The balance as of 12/31/2021 is \$70,288. Work on the remaining items in Phase II and Phase III is dependent on weather and the 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

2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

	2022 Proposed Budget	2021 Budget	2021 Actual
Income			
415 · Current Total Envelopes	160,600.00	162,745.00	150,229.50
420 · Loose Offering	625.00	2,700.00	626.10
425 · Special Services	1,400.00	4,300.00	1,445.00
435 · Miscellaneous Income	2,840.00	2,500.00	2,841.68
445 · Interest Income	550.00	400.00	548.94
463 · Building Use & All Other	150.00	500.00	150.00
Total Income	\$ 166,165.00	\$ 173,145.00	\$ 155,841.22
Expenses			
Ministry of the Pastor			
501 · Salary-Pastor		\$ 41,219.06	\$ 30,000.00
510 · Housing Equity	-	16,709.21	-
520 · Pension,Health, Life Ins.		11,656.94	5,678.20
521 · Pastor Business Expense-Cell	-	1,448.13	-
Total Ministry of the Pastor	\$ 78,506.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 35,678.20
Church Buildings & Properties			
601 · Utilities - Church	\$ 7,307.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 7,306.93
605 · Phone/Internet/Web	2,179.00	2,000.00	2,179.39
610 · Property & Liability Ins.	4,305.00	4,900.00	4,305.33
620 · Equipment & Supplies - Church	-	-	4.71
625 · Repair & Main, includes new flooring N. Wing	30,204.00	5,723.00	10,519.83
626 · Custodian	3,250.00	3,600.00	2,125.00
640 · Mortgage Interest - Church	7,620.00	7,920.00	7,619.87
641 · Mortgage Principal	11,676.00	11,376.00	11,676.13
Total Church Buildings & Properties	\$ 66,541.00	\$ 46,519.00	\$ 45,737.19
Parish Administration			
701 · Clerical Wages & Benefits	\$ 17,215.00	\$ 15,600.00	\$ 15,600.00
705 · FICA Expense	4,903.00	3,000.00	4,631.00
710 · Postage,Printing & Stationery	2,509.00	2,500.00	2,509.27
715 · Financial Supplies & Bank Fees	2,144.00	1,805.00	2,144.29
725 · Publicity	956.00	380.00	955.98
730 · Misc. Expenses	1,367.00	1,500.00	1,367.33
741 · Youth & Family Wages	3,900.00	-	-
743 · Sound Tech	375.00	1,200.00	375.00
744 · Hospitality Wages	5,200.00	5,200.00	5,200.00
Total Administration	\$ 38,569.00	\$ 31,185.00	\$ 32,782.87
Ministry of Worship			
801 · Benevolence - Synod	\$ 2,496.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,496.00
805 · Bulletins, Inserts, Certicates	-	50.00	-
806 · Altar Supplies	536.00	400.00	536.00
815 · Subscriptions - Books	1,313.00	1,250.00	1,312.72
820 · Conferences - Seminar	150.00	-	150.00
825 · Fellowship	832.00	750.00	831.44
830 · Interfaith Council	200.00	200.00	200.00
835 · SunSchool/Nursery/ VBS	800.00	1,150.00	492.19
846 · Music Leadership Wages	8,500.00	11,170.00	8,482.00
848 · Fee for Substitute Pastor	750.00	750.00	7,354.90
850 · Evangelism	1,000.00	125.00	975.43
855 · Soc. Min. & Outreach	1,000.00	300.00	263.30
865 · Youth Activities	250.00	1,000.00	137.00
870 · Worship & Music - Other	900.00	700.00	890.59
875 · Flowers Expense	487.00	-	486.73
Total Ministry of Worship	\$ 19,214.00	\$ 20,245.00	\$ 24,608.30
Total Expense	\$ 202,830.00	\$ 172,949.00	\$ 138,806.56
One-Time Income -- PPP Loan Forgiveness			23,141.00
Net Income / (Expense)	\$ (36,665.00)	\$ 196.00	\$ 40,175.66
Sources of Funding Overrun			
Funds in Discretionary Spending Account	\$ 32,665.00		
Funds in Maintenance Escrow	4,000.00		
Total Funding of Overrun	\$ 36,665.00		

DECEMBER 31, 2021 BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

100 - Current

101 - Maintenance Escrow	22,279.60
102 - Memorials	14,333.67
103 - Good Samaritan	1,455.26
104 - Aller Scholarship Fund	7,748.32
107 - Memorial Garden	9,807.66
108 - Capital Campaign Funds at PSCU	70,688.00
118 - Quilters	262.28
124 - Mortgage Reserve	10,049.62
125 - Church Mission	5,585.46
140 - PSCU /Savings	50.29
100 - Current - Other	119,258.56

Total 100 - Current 261,518.72

Total Checking/Savings 261,518.72

Total Current Assets 261,518.72

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 1,517,102.54

Other Assets

109 - MIF Endowment - Hartig 10,000.00

TOTAL ASSETS 1,788,621.26

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

205 - Withheld Federal Taxes	1,688.66
207 - Withheld Michigan Taxes	1,013.87
210 - Special Maintenance Escrow	0.00
215 - Memorials & Endowments	33,741.33
216 - Memorial Garden Prepay-Smolak	400.00
218 - Quilters	262.28
220 - Good Samaritan Fund	1,455.26
225 - Aller Scholarship Fund	7,748.32
240 - Mortgage Reserve Payable	10,049.62
245 - Fund Raising/Project Payable	2,223.96
260 - Deferred Revenue	2,300.00
265 - Miscellaneous Payables	697.00
266 - Misc. Payables - Piano/Organ	0.00
267 - Market Donations	2,258.45
268 - Capital Funds Payable	70,688.00

Total Other Current Liabilities 134,526.75

Total Current Liabilities 134,526.75

Long Term Liabilities

250 - Mortgage - Church 202,404.02

Total Long Term Liabilities 202,404.02

Total Liabilities 336,930.77

Equity

3000 - Opening Bal Equity 1,022,206.01

3900 - Retained Earnings 389,188.97

Net Income 40,295.51

Total Equity 1,451,690.49

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 1,788,621.26

2021 INCOME STATEMENT

	Jan - Dec 21	Budget	B/(W) Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
403 · Basotu-Mbulu Synod	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
420 · Loose Offering	626.10	2,700.00	(2,073.90)
425 · Special Services	1,445.00	4,300.00	(2,855.00)
435 · Miscellaneous Income	2,841.68	2,500.00	341.68
440 · Flowers	137.50	-	137.50
445 · Interest Income	548.94	400.00	148.94
460 · Building Use			
463 · Other	\$ 150.00	\$ 500.00	\$ (350.00)
Total 460 · Building Use	\$ 150.00	\$ 500.00	\$ (350.00)
490 · Total Envelopes			
415 · Current	150,229.50	162,745.00	(12,515.50)
Total 490 · Total Envelopes	\$ 150,229.50	\$ 162,745.00	\$ (12,515.50)
Total Income	\$ 155,978.72	\$ 173,145.00	\$ (17,166.28)
Expense			
500 · Ministry of the Pastor			
501 · Salary-Pastor	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 41,219.06	\$ 11,219.06
505 · Social Security - Pastor	-	3,966.66	3,966.66
510 · Housing Equity	-	16,709.21	16,709.21
520 · Pension, Health, Life Ins.	5,678.20	11,656.94	5,978.74
521 · Pastor Business Expense-Cell	-	1,448.13	1,448.13
Total 500 · Ministry of the Pastor	\$ 35,678.20	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 39,321.80
600 · Church Buildings & Properties			
601 · Utilities - Church	\$ 7,306.93	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 3,693.07
605 · Phone/Internet/Web	2,179.39	2,000.00	(179.39)
610 · Property & Liability Ins.	4,305.33	4,900.00	594.67
620 · Equipment & Supplies - Church	4.71	-	(4.71)
625 · Repair & Maint. - Church	10,519.83	5,723.00	(4,796.83)
626 · Custodian	2,125.00	3,600.00	1,475.00
640 · Mortgage Interest - Church	7,619.87	7,920.00	300.13
641 · Mortgage Principal	11,676.13	11,376.00	(300.13)
Total 600 · Church Buildings & Properties	\$ 45,737.19	\$ 46,519.00	\$ 781.81
700 · Parish Administration			
701 · Clerical Wages & Benefits	\$ 15,600.00	\$ 15,600.00	\$ -
705 · FICA Expense	4,630.82	3,000.00	(1,630.82)
710 · Postage, Printing & Stationery	2,509.27	2,500.00	(9.27)
715 · Financial Supplies & Bank Fees	2,144.29	1,805.00	(339.29)
725 · Publicity	955.98	380.00	(575.98)
730 · Misc. Expenses	1,367.33	1,500.00	132.67
741 · Youth & Family Wages	-	-	-
743 · Sound Tech	375.00	1,200.00	825.00
744 · Hospitality Wages	5,200.00	5,200.00	-
Total 700 · Parish Administration	\$ 32,782.69	\$ 31,185.00	\$ (1,597.69)
800 · Ministry of Worship			
801 · Benevolence - Synod	\$ 2,496.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ (96.00)
805 · Bulletins, Inserts, Certificates	-	50.00	50.00
806 · Altar Supplies	536.00	400.00	(136.00)
815 · Subscriptions - Books	1,312.72	1,250.00	(62.72)
820 · Conferences - Seminar	150.00	-	(150.00)
825 · Fellowship	831.44	750.00	(81.44)
830 · Interfaith Council	200.00	200.00	-
835 · SunSchool/Nursery/ VBS	492.19	1,150.00	657.81
846 · Music Leadership Wages	8,482.00	11,170.00	2,688.00
848 · Fee for Substitute Pastor	7,354.90	750.00	(6,604.90)
850 · Evangelism	975.43	125.00	(850.43)
855 · Soc. Min. & Outreach	263.30	300.00	36.70
865 · Youth Activities	137.00	1,000.00	863.00
870 · Worship & Music - Other	890.59	700.00	(190.59)
875 · Flowers Expense	486.73	-	(486.73)
Total 800 · Ministry of Worship	\$ 24,608.30	\$ 20,245.00	\$ (4,363.30)
897 · Interest Expense	18.83	0.00	(18.83)
Total Expense	\$ 138,825.21	\$ 172,949.00	\$ 34,123.79
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 17,153.51	\$ 196.00	\$ 16,957.51
Plus One-Time PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$ 23,141.00	\$ -	\$ 23,141.00
Net Income	\$ 40,294.51	\$ 196.00	\$ 40,098.51

2021 LADIES' GROUP

The year 2021 saw the beginning of a return to activities for the women's groups that gather at St. Thomas Lutheran Church.

- A Dinner and Theater outing was held on November 20. Invitees were expanded beyond a women's outing. Eighteen members participated. Dinner began at the Roundhouse BBQ Restaurant in Trenton and was followed by a delightful holiday play at the Open Book Theatre entitled *The Wickhams Christmas at Pemberley*.
- The Ladies' lunch group resumed monthly gatherings at Ramsey's Restaurant in Trenton on the second Wednesday of the month.
- Cheryl Shelton headed an outreach program to the congregation called **St. Thomas Cares**. Individuals known to be struggling with health, transportation, financial, or personal issues were contacted and supported by Cheryl and other members with phonecalls, assistance, etc.
- Coffee hour after Sunday services was held outside during the summer into early fall, after which it was moved into Fellowship Hall. Linda Landis kept us well-fed, in addition to a few ladies who volunteered as hosts.
- Betty Ruck and Linda Landis led a group of ladies in making scented teacup candles for the Christmas Eve service.

2021 MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group of St. Thomas also resumed its monthly lunches during 2021. Due to restaurant hours and staffing, the group began meeting at Sully's BBQ every second Thursday of the month.

2021 PROPERTY REPORT

2021 Upgrades, Enhancements and Improvements:

- New custodian hired
- Various plants replaced in Memorial Gardens
- Numerous light bulbs replaced
- Three utility sheds cleaned out and organized
- Furnace repaired and filters replaced
- Winter snow removal contract secured
- Roof leak repaired and compromised ceiling skillfully pegged and stained
- Six new eight-foot folding tables purchased
- Playground equipment power-washed
- Trees and shrubbery pruned and branches burned
- Alarm system fixed twice
- Two pine trees cut down and stumps removed
- Front fascia fixed on building
- Wasp nests removed and sprayed before Saturday Farm Markets
- Dumpster door repaired
- Two canopies purchased for activity use
- Roof gutters cleaned
- Windows-inside and out-professionally cleaned

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

2021 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 served as the bookkeeper. Agnes Kujala collected money from book sales and quilts and gave it to Tim for deposit. Agnes is backed-up by Ethel Yops and Gayle Withey.

2021 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, 56 recipients have been awarded scholarships totaling \$28,000! This year, two St. Thomas high school seniors were awarded \$500 each: **Alaina Gartner and Ethan Bammer**. Both recipients were distinguished in school, community, and church activities.
- **Linda Landis continues to serve as Hospitality Director**. Although some events (Easter breakfast, Soup Suppers, the cookie walk set-up, Interfaith Lent Suppers, and other fellowship opportunities) were not conducted this year, a sizable number of social events- even new ones-were beautifully organized by Linda. The Chaplains' Welcoming Reception in July, Andy's Baby Shower in August, End-of-Summer Picnic in September, the Dinner and Theater event in November, Christmas Market in December, and weekly coffee hours have been wonderful. Linda was active in the cleaning and sanitizing of the building during periods of in-person worship and cleaning and maintenance throughout the year before a custodian was secured (and also when the custodian developed COVID).
- Council President Ben Fogt oversaw a major project of hosting a Farmers' Market for local growers, artisans, and bakers. Every Friday throughout the summer, vendors, volunteers and shoppers showed up at St. Thomas for fresh fruit and vegetables, homemade crafts, and specialty foods. Not only did this endeavor benefit the vendors, but it provided a community focus and highlighted St. Thomas.
- The quilters remained active with a reduced force of about 6 workers for much of the year, but had occasional additional volunteers. Despite the COVID interruptions, an impressive 64 quilts were donated in October to Lutheran World Relief - delivered by Kent Kujala and Dan Kujala. The quilters also set up a table at the Christmas Market in December, and in additions to other sales, \$105 was raised. Over \$1,000 was generously donated to the fund in 2021 with significant donations being received from prior recipients.
- The Book Sale organized by Agnes Kujala had a healthy profit of \$60 with many books shared and exchanged.
- St. Thomas has become the local collection site for medical equipment and supplies for World Medical Relief. We receive many phone calls, donations and referrals from other churches and individuals.
- Finally, Sandi Loso continued to collect for the Sacred Heart Food Pantry. The poor economy and pandemic have resulted in greater need, but our collections have been steady.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Sunday School and Nursery

- Sunday School was held by Zoom from late-January through February and in-person from March through December. Attendance was between 1 and 8 students per week.
- Many thanks to our teachers who volunteer their time and talents to educate our young people – Wendy Brozek, Bob Dickason, Anna Gartner, Kathie Kline, Marge Noyce and Tim Perry.
- For 2021, we used Group Publishing's *Dig In* and Cokesbury's *Celebrate Wonder* curriculum, which allow teachers to select lessons and activities each week to tailor them to their students.

Confirmation Class

- Confirmation class was led by the Chaplains in person / Zoom from October to December and online by Jeff and Kathie Kline from January to June. There are four children in the class at this time.
- 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.
- One student, Monica Arndt, was confirmed in May 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 January through October and resumed on a trial basis in November. Thanks to Ben Fogt for leading this effort.

Youth Director

- The Youth Director position is presently open. Plans are to fill the position in 2022.
- Position duties are presently being performed by volunteers.

INTERFAITH COUNCIL

This year the Interfaith Council canceled most activities except **ChristNet**. As in 2021, St. Thomas was 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 breakfast items which were delivered to the distribution site. These meals and the breakfast supplies came to a cost of just over \$2,800. Each church on the island gave \$200. The remainder was from individual donations. St. Thomas led the donations among area churches. Many thanks go to our congregation for donating \$2,200.

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.*