



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Luther Memorial Church

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[www.luthermem.org](http://www.luthermem.org)

The Rev. Brad Pohlman, Senior Pastor  
The Rev. John Worzala Dumke, Associate Pastor  
The Rev. Rebecca Ninke, Visitation Pastor  
Sarah Brinkman, Office Coordinator  
Abby Gandrud, Faith & Vocation Fellow  
Patrick Haack, Facilities Manager  
Andrew Schaeffer, Director of Music  
Suelyn Swiggum, Director of Shared Ministry  
Robin Wagner, Director of Communication  
Dan Zerger, Custodian

# AGENDA

114th Annual Meeting of the Congregation of  
Luther Memorial Church, Madison, Wisconsin.

February 6, 2022 | 10:45 am

- I. Call to Order: Bruce Curtis, President
- II. Invocation
- III. Appointment of Tellers and Parliamentarian
- IV. Approval of Minutes
  - a. 113th Annual Meeting February 7, 2021
  - b. Special Congregational Meeting (Benevolence), August 22, 2021
  - c. Special Congregational Meeting (Pipe Organ), August 29, 2021
- V. Report of the President
- VI. Report of the Pastors and Staff
- VII. Acceptance of Reports
  - a. Luther Memorial Columbarium
  - b. Luther Memorial Foundation
- VIII. Hymn: ELW 665 Rise, Shine, You People! (*See inside back cover*)
- IX. Approval of Constitutional Changes (First vote)
- X. Approval of Proposed Capital Expenditures
- XI. Approval of 2022 Budget
- XII. Election of 2022 Council Members and Synod Assembly Representatives
- XIII. Other Business
- XIV. Adjournment with Prayer

## **113<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Luther Memorial Church Meeting Minutes February 7, 2021**

### **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 11:00 am by Council President Yvonne Eide.

Note: Meeting held remotely per pandemic protocol.

### **Invocation**

Vicar Leif Kratzke Nelson provided the opening prayer. The requirement for a meeting quorum was met as demonstrated by 66 Zoom sessions, some with multiple members. A minimum of 50 members were required for quorum.

### **Appointment of Tellers**

Suelyn Swiggum, Vicar Leif, Bill Braham, and Bruce Curtis were appointed as tellers and to monitor the meeting chat. John Pleuss was appointed as parliamentarian.

Zoom polling practice was conducted by Suelyn. Polling results will be shared, all info is anonymous.

### **Approval of Minutes from 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, February 2, 2020**

Helen Hartman moved to approve the minutes from the 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, seconded by Michael Bradley. The motion carried by raising of hands.

### **Report of the President**

Yvonne Eide referred to her report in the packet, p. 7. She thanked her husband, the Luther Memorial staff and council, and all church members for their service and gifts.

### **Report of the Pastors and Staff** – update provided by Pr. Brad Pohlman, Pr. John Worzala Dumke

Pr. Brad Pohlman referred to the report in the meeting packet, p. 6. He recalled that last year began with a trip to see a pipe organ shortly after last year's annual meeting then reflected on the one-year anniversary of these events: The first Sunday in March was the last normal service held, no service held the second Sunday, then a recording of the service for the third Sunday in March.

He mentioned being grateful for the council, committees, and church groups, the many other people who have done things over the past year, and for staff for all the adjustments they made. He thanked Kim O'Leary for her 20 years of service to the congregation, and welcomed the new church administrator Emily West.

Pr. John Worzala Dumke expressed gratitude to the Covenant Ministry team, those who served on the Partnership Ministry team, the Columbarium board, the Youth and Family ministry team, and the Faith and Vocation fellow Addison Arndt. He said he was pleased with the congregation response last year, and that of staff and leadership. He noted that many plans for Lutheran Campus Center were never able to be implemented over the year and he thanked Pr. Emily and the LMC board. He offered thanks in advance for their continued grace, care, and compassion.

Mary Jean Huston offered thanks to the pastors and staff for their leadership during the year.

## Acceptance of Reports

- Luther Memorial Columbarium—update provided by Columbarium Board President Phyllis Pleuss.

Not much activity occurred since the church was not open. Plans were put on indefinite hold.

Pr. John noted that an internal loan from the church to the Columbarium is now much reduced from the original amount.

- Luther Memorial Foundation— update provided by Foundation President Anne Hunnex.

Many planned activities were curtailed. They distributed a legacy giving brochure by mail.

- The Keep — update provided by co-chairs Helen Hartman and Sue Bangert  
Helen reported that all student groups are coming back next year. There will be a forum on 4/21 about the Keep. Saw differing levels of activity by the groups. FH King went all online, the Artisan Collective has a website.

Sue thanked the advocates for staying in touch with the student groups who were very challenged with keeping their ministries going. Thanks to pastors John and Emily for keeping the task force meeting via Zoom.

- The Keep Food Pantry – update provided by Barb Luedke  
Record high numbers of shoppers were at the Keep two weeks ago. Ministry has continued in full force thanks to the volunteers who come each week. Also thanks to the congregation for the vision to create this ministry and for their continued support.

Motion to approve all printed reports made by John Pleuss, seconded by Jon Enslin. Motion carried by raising of hands.

## Approval of 2021 Budget—Pr. Brad Pohlman

Pr. Pohlman referred to page 34-35 of the 2020 Annual Report and provided highlights as follows:

- 2020 Budget – We did remarkably well. Congregational giving stayed strong. Other sources of income dropped significantly. Expenses also dropped significantly due to the pandemic. We received a Payroll Protection Program loan/grant for payroll. We ended the year \$100,000 in the black. This 2020 money was set aside to be used for the 2021 budget.
- Operating Appeal - This was the first time in a decade that we have a decrease in anticipated pledges. This was due to both the pandemic and a large number of life changes for members. Loose offerings also decreased in amount. We are anticipating a similar decrease for 2021. Same will be true for building use income since there will be few weddings. We do continue to have money being paid by US Cellular. We are accounting for the transfer of the 2020 money to 2021 budget on the Miscellaneous Income line.
- Expenses – Had decreases for Belonging and Learning. Have no increase in benevolence to Campus Ministry and to the Synod. We will give \$5000 to Santa Maria as part of our 3-year commitment to them. This adds up to an increase in benevolent giving. Admin and Finance

stayed as normal. Facilities numbers are decreased due to decreased building use. There is an overall decrease for Personnel expenses due to not budgeting for some part time staff until September and a decrease for staff health insurance. But the amount still includes a COLA increase.

Sue Bangert moved to approve the budget, seconded by Mary Jean Huston.

Clarification made by Jon Enslin that since this comes as approved from council no need for this motion.

Yvonne Eide asked for all in favor of the budget as proposed to vote by raising of hands. The motion carried.

Judy Braham expressed thanks for the additional \$30,000 in gifts given to the Covid Relief Fund. Pr. Brad noted that the amount shown on the benevolence page (p.32 of the Annual Report) is as of December 31. A significant amount went to food pantries including ours and Second Harvest, to community ministry, ELCA groups, and the Porchlight DIGs program.

Cris Enslin asked what is percentage of giving from non-members due to virtual worship?

Pr. Brad answered that we don't have that number, but he will look into that.

### **Election of 2021 Council Members**

Yvonne wished a fond farewell to the outgoing Council members. A gift of framed pictures of the Luther Memorial nave were given to the outgoing members. These are:

Surya Blasiole – youth member who served 2 years. She expressed thanks for the gift and said she was honored to serve.

Cliff Haaland – served 6 years, 2 as president. He expressed confidence in the ability of the congregation moving forward in the future. He remains part of the Santa Maria partnership ministry team.

Pr. Brad Pohlman thanked Council President Yvonne Eide who also finishes her council term this year. She received a gift of a framed motto.

Pr. Brad stated that we get the council president we need when needed, and we were blessed this year with Yvonne's leadership based on her public health experience.

This year's nominees for a second 3-year term each are Janelle Allen and Michael Bradley, and for a first 3-year term are Bill Hunnex and Mary Jean Huston. The young adult nominee for a 1-year term is Bethany Hotzel.

President Yvonne Eide asked twice for nominations from the floor; no further nominations offered. Phyllis Pleuss moved to close nominations, seconded by Sue Bangert.

Vote conducted to elect all nominees for council membership by show of hands. The motion carried.

### **Other Business**

- Janelle Allen requested info about Parroquia Santa Maria

Pr. John Worzala Dumke gave the update. The partnership ministry team members from Luther Memorial are Heidi Notbohm, Cliff Haaland, Ryan Mattison, Pr. John Worzala Dumke. There is a pastoral member from each team. They are working on the shared ministry plan. Both congregations love high worship and eating! They are working on ways of learning from and meeting with each other. There will be a 1, 3, and 5-year ministry plan. Part of the plan is to work with a congregation in Puerto Rico (San Pablo

in San Juan). They hope to visit and work with LSS to help them. Pr. John directed people to the link to join the Santa Maria worship. Both congregations are autonomous with intentional things to be done together. These will be communicated in the future when they happen.

- Martha Taylor asked for a report from the campus ministry.  
Pr. Emily Tveite gave the update. In the fall they tried to find ways to meet in person outside, then settled into an online presence. She thanked Vicar Leif for his work. They are hoping to have more new students in the spring. She thanked board members Pr. John Worzala Dumke and Bill Braham. She is grateful to the Keep ministry which has been important to students at this time.  
Pr. John Worzala Dumke thanked Pr. Emily and Kenzie Ruiz who does communications for LWC. The pastors thanked all for their financial support.
- Caroline Oldershaw asked if more PPP funds are becoming available?  
Pr. Brad said another round is available. A decision was made to apply for this, will make the decision in future on whether to keep the funds.
- George Alexander, chair of the Seminary Intern task force, welcomed Vicar Leif.
  - Leif introduced himself to all, expressed his gratitude for being able to join us, and appreciation for the ability to build his pastoral skills.
- Others expressed gratitude:
  - Janet Zentner to Dave Parminter and the others who put together the video services
  - Helen Hartman to Andrew Schaeffer for the Wednesday concerts
  - Yvonne Eide to the members of the ad hoc social justice group
- Judy Braham moved to express our appreciation to Kim O'Leary for her 20 years of service as church administrator. This was seconded by Barb Hughes. Motion carried by show of hands.

### **Adjournment with Prayer**

Pr. Rebecca Ninke closed the meeting with a prayer.

John Pleuss moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jon Enslin. Motion carried by show of hands.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 pm by President Yvonne Eide.

Kelly Olson, Secretary



**Luther Memorial Church Special Congregational Meeting - Benevolence Proposal  
Minutes  
August 22, 2021**

Note: Meeting held remotely per pandemic protocol.

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 9:15 am by Council President Bruce Curtis. He declared that quorum was not met and called for a pause in the meeting until 12:15 pm. Meeting held open until quorum met.

Meeting resumed at 12:20 pm. President Bruce Curtis declared quorum was met.

A minimum of 50 members were required for quorum. More than fifty members were present on Zoom.

**Invocation**

Mary Jean Huston provided the opening prayer.

**Appointment of Tellers**

Suelyn Swiggum was appointed as teller. John Pleuss was appointed as parliamentarian.

**Council Proposal on Extra Benevolence – Pr. Brad Pohlman**

- **The Luther Memorial congregational council makes the following motion:**  
That Luther Memorial Church send the following gifts as additional benevolence giving above and beyond the approved 2021 Congregational Budget:

- \$10,000 to the Road Home
- \$15,000 to Second Harvest Food Bank
- \$15,000 to Porchlight
- \$15,000 to the South-Central Synod of WI, ELCA
- \$15,000 to Lutheran Campus Ministry at UW Madison
- \$5,000 to Parroquia Santa Maria
- \$5,000 to Oakwood Foundation
- \$20,000 to the Luther Memorial Maintenance Reserve Fund

Money to be taken from current Operating Reserves

- Discussion:
  - Background provided by Pr. Brad Pohlman.
    - Thanks to the generosity of all and the work of the Admin & Finance committee, staff, and council, 2020 and 2021 have been good financially for us.
    - Luther Memorial applied for federal PPP (Payroll Protection Plan) grants and received two, one in 2020 and another in 2021 for approximately \$100,000 in each year
    - We did need the grant money last year and used some of those dollars for the budget in 2020
    - Almost all congregations applied and received this grant last year

- Second round of grants this year had few congregations qualify because of the need to demonstrate a significant reduction in amount of money received
- We had a decrease on paper due to large benevolences received in 2020
- The decision was made to apply for the 2021 grant and wait to see if it was needed, or possibly apply excess operating budget income towards the needy
- This proposal is for disbursement of half the amount received from the government
- All organizations in the proposal are either ones we have a long-standing relationship with or are related to food or housing security
- Only amount proposed to be kept internally is \$20,000 to go to the Maintenance Reserve to reimburse for expenses for upgrades to the heating and cooling system made to address pandemic needs in 2020
- Question from Sandy Erickson: What is the obligation to report back to the government on the use of the funds?
  - We spent the money received on payroll per requirements and reported that, so the money was turned into a grant. This then leaves operating budget income in the same amount available to be used elsewhere.
- Barb Hughes spoke to the motion:
  - She is in favor of the benevolence grants, but is concerned about doing this now.
  - She prefers to give half the full amount now and the balance later in the year at a time determined by the council in November or December so we can see the comparison of income vs. expenses for the year.
  - We have been low on income in the last few months. Some of this is due to the timing of the ELCA Foundation distribution. Cash flow for the year looks low at this time.

Barb Hughes proposed an amendment to the motion: Disburse half of the amount of the proposed funds now and the balance later in the year in November or December as determined by council. Council would then have authority to make the decision on whether to distribute the second half of the funds at that time.

Motion seconded by Janelle Allen.

#### Discussion:

- Janelle Allen called out that council could decide not to disburse the other half of the money.
- Anne Hunnex: There are only four months left in the year, the community need is great now. We have many resources available.
- John Pleuss asked a question for Barb: Does it make more sense to do the distribution at the congregational annual meeting?
  - Barb replied that she thinks council will know enough by December, so it's not necessary to wait until next year
- Terri Alexander: She feels the need is now and immediate
- Caroline Oldershaw: She would like to do the full payment now. This has been thought out by leadership

- Treasurer Bill Braham:
  - There are three big factors to consider:
    - ELCA Foundation conversion to quarterly payments to us has skewed the monthly income amount. He is confident this will be resolved by end of year
    - Giving is down, as is similar to previous years. Income is down about \$16,000 which is usual in the summer and will likely be made up in December
    - Covid – we don't know if the lockdown will tighten resulting in decline in church attendance. We are not sure if this will result in lower income, but he's hopeful that people will continue to give, mail in checks to the office. Many have electronic payments which is very helpful.
  - He would vote in favor of full amount of benevolence to be sent now
- Phil Schoech asked a question: Is the \$16,000 down from comparison to the pro-rated budget, is it not unusual? How does revenue stream compare to last year?
  - Answer from Bill Braham: Yes, it's not unusual. It's hard to account for why income is down right now, his sense is that it's the normal summer decrease.
- John Pleuss: He supports the amendment. We are in an unprecedented situation, and we don't know what the next few months will bring.
- Phyllis Pleuss: She would like to give all the amount now. Future financial problems not related to the pandemic, such as spending on heating/cooling, may risk funds not going to pandemic related issues
- Mary Jean Huston: Clarification that this is not the money from the government grant, but money freed to do additional work. The subcommittee approached this as wishing to have an impact related to pandemic needs
- Kathy Bradley asked a question: Where are the organizations in their budgetary processes, will this affect their functionality?
  - Sandy Erickson responded: There is unprecedented need and organizations are currently in continual fund-raising mode. They could spend more time in direct service if we give them unbudgeted money.
- Barb Hughes: She has served on and chaired the Admin & Finance committee. She has seen many years dealing with end of year deficits. She is hopeful that the rest of this year's revenue will be good, but the last three months have been lower. We've used some funds from the excess operating budget income that resulted from the 2020 PPP grant for this year's budget already.
- Judy Braham: She believes that generosity is one of the most motivating and uplifting ways to keep a community together. Since council has decided this should be directed to the needy, even if we need to come up with more resources later, it would bring us together more to be "generous in plenty and generous in scarcity." Leadership supports this or it would not be before us. We are a people together who take care of each other, we don't count on financial resources, but each other.

Martha Taylor called the question.

John Pleuss noted that we need 2/3 vote to call the question. This passes by show of hands. Teller to run a Zoom poll for the amendment.

Suelyn gave instructions for conducting the vote by Zoom poll.

**Amendment #1:** 95% of participants voted, amendment is not approved

President Bruce Curtis called for other amendments to the original proposal or for any further discussion. None received.

Vote conducted by Zoom poll on the original, unamended proposal:  
97% of participants voted, amendment is approved.

Reminder from Bruce Curtis for next week's congregational meeting for the pipe organ proposal. Thanks expressed to all who shared in discussion of this proposal and to all who attended.

**Adjournment with Prayer**

Bill Braham closed the meeting with a prayer.

Michael Bradley moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Pr. Brad Pohlman. Motion carried by show of hands.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 pm by President Bruce Curtis.

Kelly Olson, Secretary



## **Luther Memorial Church Special Congregational Meeting – Pipe Organ Proposal Minutes August 29, 2021**

Note: Meeting held remotely per pandemic protocol.

### **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 12:15 pm by Council President Bruce Curtis.

Bruce Curtis declared quorum was met. A minimum of 50 members were required for quorum. More than fifty members were present on Zoom.

### **Invocation**

Pr. John Worzala Dumke provided the opening prayer.

### **Appointment of Tellers**

Sueilyn Swiggum was appointed as teller. John Pleuss was appointed as parliamentarian.

### **Council Proposal on new Pipe Organ - Bruce Curtis**

- **Upon recommendation of the Pipe Organ Task Force, the Luther Memorial Council recommends approval of the following motion.**
- Bruce Curtis invited Organ Task Force co-chair Barb Hughes to present the proposal:

That the congregation of Luther Memorial Church hereby approves a \$2,485,000 contract with Taylor & Boody Organbuilders of Staunton, Virginia to build a pipe organ for Luther Memorial Church, with all shipping and installation expenses as described in paragraph (3) of the contract included in said contract price and said contract price to be exempted from any and all surcharges for cost of living (COLA) increases. Further, that the Congregation Council is authorized to spend necessary dollars for costs to prepare the rear (north) balcony for installation (estimated to be between \$125,000 and \$150,000) and any costs to remove the current Austin Organ.

- Barb Hughes commented that we are hopeful that some other organization will purchase and pay for removal of the Austin organ.
- President Bruce Curtis opened the floor for questions or discussion.
  - Gary Brown: Can you review the timeline?
    - Organ would be built over 2025 to 2026 with targeted completion in Sept 2026.
    - Pr. Brad Pohlman: We would need to vacate the nave for summer of 2026
    - Chappy corrected this via the chat to say this would be 2 Sundays at most
  - Barb Hughes: Once organ is installed there is another period of 4 months for tuning and voicing of the organ
  - Sandy Erickson: This time in needed to adjust the pipes so they are tuned and sound as intended
  - Andrew Schaeffer: If approved, the contract would be signed this week. Then many things would continue behind the scenes to refine the specifications, tweak until all are happy with the proposal. No changes would be made to the contract price. CAD drawings will be done and design created for the

- construction. Will identify what will need to be adjusted in the balcony. Taylor & Boody will be providing updates over the course of the construction.
- Will be custom built, designed to fit our music ministry and space. The acoustics of the room will be studied, the pipes made will then be adjusted to sound correctly for the space
  - Voicing to get every part working in the space is what takes the longest after installation is complete
  - Doris Marten asked how does this correlate with money being raised for other parts of the church?
    - Pr. Brad answered: We have many people waiting to give gifts if this is approved. We should be able to do fund raising for this over the next two years, but will still need to be sensitive to our other fund-raising needs.

Bruce Curtis called for the vote and asked Suelyn to create a poll for the vote. She gave instructions for conducting the vote by Zoom poll.

Vote conducted by Zoom poll on the proposal:  
Poll results with 100% of participants voting, proposal is approved.

Andrew Schaeffer thanked everyone for coming and for their support. He thanked Barb Hughes and Sandy Erickson, the co-chairs of the Organ Task Force and all the other members of the committee who have been meeting for a year and a half. He has grown to appreciate the different gifts brought by everyone to enrich the discussion. Special thanks to Pr. Brad Pohlman for his work and help in legal matters, to Suelyn and Robin for their help with communications, to Bill Hunnex for putting together the numbers which helped to get the real picture. He expressed huge thanks to John “Chappy” Stowe for his help and many hours of involvement. He also expressed much gratitude to the legacy on which this music program is built and in particular to his predecessor Bruce Bengtson, especially for the direction of gifts made at his retirement to start the organ fund and for his continued support of this project.

Barb Hughes thanked Attorney Mark Johnson for reviewing the contract.

Sandy Erickson thanked the anonymous donor of the major gift towards the organ and everyone who expressed support for the organ in spirit and financially.

### **Adjournment with Prayer**

Rev. Peter Sherven closed the meeting with a prayer.

John Pleuss moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Miriam Hull. Motion carried by show of hands.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 pm by President Bruce Curtis.

Kelly Olson, Secretary



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Bread for the Day, a daily bible reading and prayer resource published by Augsburg Fortress, ended 2021 with this prayer December 31<sup>st</sup>:

*God we turn to you at year's end with these prayers: for children to be safe, for peace to reign, and for hunger to be satisfied. We trust your wisdom and your word, for you are endless love.*

This is a beautiful prayer as we begin 2022 as well. Our trust is in God's wisdom and word. God is endless love. We so desire our children to be safe, for the hungry to be fed and for peace to reign.

I know that you are bringing this prayer to truth. Thank you, people of the South-Central synod, of Wisconsin for showing and sharing God's endless love throughout your communities, our state, country, and across the globe. It is because of you children are being made safe. The hungry are receiving food. Quilts are being made and sent for warmth. You proclaim and practice ways of peace and justice. You see the neighbor and include the unseen in your prayers and in your actions of care. Thank you. Each of the 138 congregations and ministries of our synod makes a difference in the lives of real people. You share the endless love of God in big and small ways each day. Thank you.

Thank you also for ways we are church together. As the pandemic drags on, we continue to yearn for its end. We continue to wonder what things will return and what things are changed forever. Thank you for the ways that congregations, leaders, conferences, laity and clergy continue to bravely pray and discern together in this uncertain time. It is a privilege to walk alongside of you in these conversations. God is present in these days. God is active in these days. We are not alone. Your congregation is not alone.

Please know that your synod, the South-Central synod of Wisconsin, is committed to being your partner in ministry. Together we are finding new ways to share God's grace, build community and to be Christ's endless love in the world.

God's blessings to you and upon your Annual meeting,

*Bishop Joy*

Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe

# PASTORS

The Rev. Brad Pohlman, Rev. John Worzala Dumke & Rev. Rebecca Ninke

“Food for the Journey” is the theme for our Sunday school this year. The theme evokes the myriad and sometimes mysterious ways we are, and continue to be, nurtured by God. Whether such nurture comes through physically real food provided by the One who creates and sustains all living things, or the ways we are fed by the Word, spoken by the prophets, incarnate in the flesh, risen from the dead and whose body we feast on weekly.

A few highlights for our journey together this past year:

Thanks to all those worship leaders, choir members, ushers and live stream crew who all had to make plans, adjust, readjust and change again as the pandemic ebbed and flowed throughout the year.

This past year, we said goodbye to our seminarian Leif Kratzke Nelson who served as our Vicar for the 2020–2021 school year. Special thanks to the intern committee, chaired by George Alexander, for providing support and feedback to Leif.

Our partnership with Parroquia Santa María, an ELCA Spanish speaking mission congregation continues to grow. Santa Maria holds a 12:30 Communion service on Sundays in the nave. We look forward to new ways to partner together in the coming year.

The middle of the year brought to conclusion the work of the Pipe Organ Task force. In August, on the recommendation of the task force and the council, the congregation voted to purchase a new pipe organ. Details can be found in this report. Thanks to all those who served on the task force including Sandy Erickson and Barb Hughes, co-chairs.

We want to mention all the ways this congregation was generous in giving this past year, particularly in financial ways. Between our regular benevolence to the synod, campus ministry and Santa Maria, plus the COVID relief fund and the special congregational meeting where we voted to send extra gifts to some of our partners in ministry, we together gifted various local and international ministries around \$200,000. That is something to celebrate!

We wish to thank the LM staff for their commitment, passion, and extraordinary efforts during extraordinary times. Some serve full time, some part time; some you see on Sundays, some work more behind the scenes. They include (in order of longevity): Laurie Swimm (archivist), Suelyn Swiggum (Director of Shared Ministry), Dan Zerger (Custodian), Robin Wagner (Director of Communication), Sarah Brinkman (Office Coordinator), Chelsie Propst (Chant Choir Director), Andrew Schaeffer (Director of Music), the Rev. Lisa Nelson (Women’s Group Coordinator), Patrick Haack (Facilities Manager) and Abby Gandrud (Faith and Vocation Fellow for 2021-2022). We also wish to thank our partners in ministry, the Rev. Emily Tveite (Campus Pastor) and the Rev. Kirsten Worzala Dumke (Mission Pastor at Santa Maria).

Finally, we thank you, our dear church family, who faithfully serve in the life and work of Luther Memorial, and embody Christ’s love through community. We especially thank you for your grace, compassion and understanding this past year.

# CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Bruce Curtis, President

It has been my pleasure to serve as President of the Congregation Council for 2021. This has been another trying year for all of us. And unfortunately for some, a very distressing time. Yet within this pandemic, I would like to focus on the many positive moments that happened at Luther Memorial in 2021.

First, let me thank the staff. Without their ardent work and leadership, we could not have had such a good year. We are truly blessed to have them.

During the year, worship services moved from pre-recorded to back to in-person. Personally, I found myself hesitant about coming to the nave once again. Yet it was good to reconnect with old friends and faces. Currently, services continue to be in-person with a live-stream option available. Many thanks to those who helped during the tapings, and to those who are working during the livestream. Luther Memorial has done a remarkable job of maintaining its mission throughout this past year. Some of the notable items that have continued through the pandemic include: our strengthened covenant with Parroquia Santa María, Men's and Women's groups, virtual coffee hour, The Keep Ministry and The Keep Food Pantry, Confirmation and Sunday School and Campus Ministry.

The mission of the church could not happen if it were not for the support and hard work by the standing committees and ministry boards. These groups help support all aspects of our ministry. This past year, all have met on a regular basis whether in person or on Zoom. Thank you to all who have served this past year. And a special thanks to these chairpersons for their work on committees:

Barb Hughes - Administration and Finance  
Mike Heggseth - Facilities

Bob Brod - Governance  
Phyllis Pleuss - Personnel  
Phyllis Pleuss - LM Columbarium  
Sandy Erickson - LM Foundation

Our congregation has once again shown its commitment to LM and to the surrounding community with the giving of time and resources to the betterment of the church of Christ.

It doesn't seem that long ago that we had consecutive Sundays with congregational meetings. On both occasions, our church voted to proceed with some major projects. After securing federal grants to provide assistance for staff salaries, it became clear that our church budget would have a noteworthy amount in the black. Careful considerations were made from a council task force. Having discussed it further during council meetings; and later with a congregational forum, and with prayer, the congregation voted to send monies to seven different ministry partners in our area. This was an extraordinary feat, given the global situation and is a testament to the people of Luther Memorial. And one week later, we met again to vote on another item! This time for a new organ. Last spring, the Pipe Organ Task Force began by assessing the "health" of our current organ. Realizing that is outlasting its practicality, the task force began accepting bids, finally settling on one from the organ makers Taylor and Boody. A vote in favor was cast by the congregation. However, we must now wait a few years before we will hear this new instrument in our midst.

In closing, I would like to say what a blessing it has been to be a part of Luther Memorial. I have been able to witness the good works by the people of this congregation. I am confident that with our continued support and devotion, we will see a flourishing LM for 2022.

# LUTHER MEMORIAL COLUMBARIUM

Plyllis Pleuss, President

While the COVID pandemic continues to hamper our in-person activities, the Columbarium Board has kept surprisingly busy online, dealing with changes and policy decisions this year. Zoom is our friend.

Lewis Bosworth had served on the Columbarium Board as historian since 2014, and in the time he served he worked very hard to clear a backlog of Memory Book pages that had not been written. And he succeeded, so that there is now a Memory Book page for all but the most recently inurned saints in the Columbarium. However, sadly, Lewis never recovered from his illness, and after a long period of decline, he died in the fall of 2021 and is himself now inurned in the Columbarium. In true Lewis fashion, he wrote his own Memory Book page.

Because of his illness, there was a period of time in which there was a disruption of the tasks the historian normally does. Janelle Allen, a new Columbarium Board member, bravely agreed to fill the role of historian and has done an amazing job of learning the procedures and bringing things up to date. We are now back on track with inurnment remembrances and Memory Book pages.

We were able to do a Zoom presentation for Sunday Forum this past spring, which had been put on hold for a year. Pastor Worzala Dumke moderated a presentation with two funeral directors from Cress Funeral Home that proved to be interesting and informative. We still want to do an in-person gathering of niche owners, but that continues to be on hold because of the pandemic.

We were busy dealing with some unusual and unforeseen issues this year such as temporary storage of cremains, enclosures in the niches, the

requested removal of an urn, and how to keep a relative's contact information current.

Thanks to three donors, we were able to pay the balance of the debt we owed the congregation for the loan to build the North Wall of niches.

Thank you!

In 2021 we had six inurnments of cremains, and we sold two niches.

Phyllis Pleuss – President  
Janet Streiff – Vice President  
Kelly Olson – Secretary  
Randy Raasch – Treasurer  
Janelle Allen – Historian  
Cris Enslin – Board Member at Large  
Pastor Pohlman – Pastoral representative  
Bruce Curtis – Council President (ex officio)



# LUTHER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Sandy Erickson, President

2021 Members of the Foundation Board:

President - Sandy Erickson  
Vice President - Jon Schneider  
Secretary - Beth Bray  
Treasurer - Randy Raasch  
At Large Members - Bob Brod, Michael  
Moscicke, Dave Watson  
Ex Officio Members - Pastor Brad Pohlman,  
Pastor John Worzala Dumke, Council  
President Bruce Curtis

## Background on Foundation

The Luther Memorial Foundation exists to steward bequests and other planned gifts that members and friends of the congregation have made to benefit the mission of Luther Memorial Church, and to encourage others to consider legacy gifts.

The Foundation was started in 1964 with a gift from the estate of Oscar Rennebohm. Outright gifts and planned gifts are held in an endowment trust managed by the ELCA Foundation. Using a set formula, the Luther Memorial Foundation Board oversees allocations to and distributions from funds dedicated to: the preservation and restoration of church facilities via the Cornerstone Fund; programmatic ministries through the Program Fund; and support for outreach mission work through the Mission Fund.

## General Priorities of the Foundation

- Appreciation of current Foundation donors
- Providing educational opportunities about Luther Memorial and stimulate consideration of each person's personal legacy.
- Communicating the opportunity for and impacts of gifts to the Foundation

## Foundation Activities in 2021

As with so many other things in 2021, the LM Foundation's work was constrained by the ongoing pandemic and the need to maintain safe

practices with Zoom meetings. Information on Luther Memorial's website was enhanced and refreshed to promote greater awareness of the Foundation. We held a summer in-person meeting when the County-wide mask mandate was temporarily lifted during which new officers and committee members were welcomed and ideas for a 2022 donor recognition event were conceptualized. Planning was put on hold as it became clear that an in-person event was not feasible for the near future, and we will instead re-focus on a virtual event for 2022.

## Luther Memorial Financial Update and Impact

As of September 30, 2021, LMC Foundation's assets were reported at nearly \$2.9 million. These are managed in three funds:

- Program: \$541,300
- Cornerstone: \$2,090,000
- Mission: \$254,200

The LM Foundation provided \$117,737 (5% of assets) to the 2021 Operating Budget to support building, operations, and mission work. The Foundation Board approved support of \$125,775 (5% of assets) for the same purposes in 2022.

## Considerations for the Future

On the docket for work in 2022: An event, possibly in Spring (or later) for current and prospective donors, consideration of adding a possible fourth (Music/Organ) fund to the Foundation, and the exploration of diversifying the fund mix and investment managers used as the Foundation assets approach \$3 million. Funds are currently held with the ELCA Foundation. This relationship will continue; the value of adding a second source of fund management will be the question at hand.

# PIPE ORGAN TASK FORCE

Sandy Erickson & Barb Hughes, Co-Chairs

*“The proposed organ is envisioned to give versatility in liturgical accompaniment, hymnody, and performance of organ literature from the earliest works to contemporary compositions... The responsibility to create an instrument that is worthy to be used, as a conduit to comfort and bolster the hearts of congregants, is both thrilling and humbling.”*

The sentences above were extracted from the cover letter for the contract of our new organ. While it reflects the views of the craftsman that will construct our instrument over the next several years, it also echoes the sentiments of the Pipe Organ Task Force which has, since its creation at our 2020 Annual Meeting, labored to secure the best possible organ for Luther Memorial.

A new pipe organ has been a dream of the congregation dating back to the mid-1990s. The project was spurred by an unprecedented and unsolicited gift that will cover much of the cost of a new organ. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of the task force proceeded immediately and throughout the two-year discernment process, we were able to meet regularly, visit churches, talk with experts, and interact with potential organbuilders.

This work culminated in a proposal that was unanimously approved by the council and subsequently, the congregation at a special meeting held on August 29, 2021.

As was shared at the meeting, the total cost of the organ is \$2,485,000, plus approximately \$125,000 of work to the balcony. As of this writing, we are pleased to share that \$1,807,216 has been contributed to the organ fund. A formal, congregation-wide campaign to raise the remainder will take place before the organ is delivered in 2026.

Upon signing the contract, the primary work of the task force came to a natural hiatus. As we get closer to 2026, members of the task force and others from the congregation will be invited to serve on several smaller task forces to cover the logistical needs of our fundraising campaign, the physical installation of the organ itself, and to champion a series of events to celebrate the completion of the instrument.

Taylor and Boody Organbuilders is regarded as one of the finest pipe organ workshops in the world. We have every confidence that they will craft an instrument that is worthy of our historic nave, the wider Madison community, and most importantly, the outstanding liturgical and musical program that we offer in service to our Creator.

Sandra Erickson & Barbara Hughes,  
Co-Chairs, Pipe Organ Task Force  
Robert Brod  
Dr. Peter Mahler  
Casey Oelkers  
The Rev. Brad Pohlman  
Dr. Andrew Schaeffer  
The Rev. Peter Sherven  
Dr. John Chappell Stowe



# LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

The Rev. Emily Tveite, Campus Pastor



What a joy it was when we opened the doors of the student center this fall after being closed for eighteen months! I remember standing in front of the building and watching the students traverse University Avenue

with gratitude coursing through my veins. My joy only increased the next week, as I gathered with students in the nave at Luther Memorial to sing, pray, and ponder scripture together.

Over the course of the pandemic, we have all come to understand in a new way how being a part of a community of faith connects us to God, gives us strength and resilience, and equips us to share God's mercy and justice with our hurting world. Lutheran Campus Ministry and Luther Memorial have been as vital as ever to students during this time and I am so grateful for our continued partnership.

This year, we have weathered the storm of the pandemic together as we provided students with pastoral care and spiritual formation, responded to basic needs through The Keep Ministry, and have blessed the wider church as we hosted a seminary intern.

I am so proud of our work together in The Keep. This joint ministry continues to respond to basic needs and nurtures student leaders who respond to those needs. I am grateful to Sue Bangert, Helen Hartman, and The Keep Ministry Team for their work. The Keep Food Pantry has been vital to our campus community this year. Many thanks to Barb Luedke, the Food Pantry Ministry Team, and all who volunteer in the food pantry.

I am also grateful to Luther Memorial for sharing with us the privilege of hosting Vicar Leif Kratzke Nelson. He not only blessed Lutheran Campus Ministry with his presence and passion for ministry, but he also allowed students to discern how God calls individuals into pastoral ministry in the church. I am deeply hopeful that we will be able to host another seminary intern together in the future.

It is not an overstatement to say that the work of Lutheran Campus Ministry would not be possible without Luther Memorial. We are so grateful for your generosity in sharing this ministry as well as your financial support.

There are several other people who deserve particular thanks this year. Pastor John Worzala Dumke concluded two years of service as president of our board of directors this summer. Bill Braham continues to serve as our treasurer and Pastor Brad Pohlman began serving on our board this summer. I want to say a particular thanks to Patrick Haack this year as he has helped to navigate an enormous number of repair and improvement projects to the student center. Randy and Connie Burmeister have also gathered a huge team of volunteers to help refresh the center with new paint and flooring in early 2022. Thank you to the many members of Luther Memorial who are helping with this effort.

On a personal level, I am also grateful. Paul and I and our daughters are so deeply blessed to be a part of this congregation. On behalf of the board of directors, staff, and students of Lutheran Campus Ministry, I offer a heartfelt thank you for our partnership. I look forward to continuing to work together in 2022!

# PARROQUIA SANTA MARIA

The Rev. Kirsten Worzala Dumke, Mission Pastor

Greetings, our siblings at Luther Memorial!

It is hard to believe that this time last year the community of Santa María was hopeful in their planning to return to in-person worship following nearly a year of online services. In the time since then, we have seen that joy come to fruition and, even more powerfully, we have worked together as two communities who share a mission of living out God's love and grace in worship and in the world. Many members of Luther Memorial have celebrated spirit-filled worship services of Día de los Muertos and Our Lady of Guadalupe and many more continue to hold our community in prayer and with support. What an incredibly wonderful year it has been, even amidst another pandemic year of many challenges.

There is much work yet to be done as Santa María continues to grow in building its structure as a congregation and in reaching out to the Latino community in Dane County, but with the dedicated members of Santa María and with your continued care, I have no doubt that the best is yet to come. On behalf of the community of Santa María, I thank you for your open arms and for your desire for true relationship with the multicultural community of Santa María. It continues to be a joy to work alongside you in ministry and I am incredibly proud to see our two congregations navigate this journey together in a way that very few have in our greater church.

La paz de Cristo,  
Rev. Kirsten Worzala Dumke



Members of Parroquia Santa María led the Sunday forum to talk about Día de los Muertos on Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021.

# 2022 COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

## **Current Council Members**

Term (2020–2023)

Bruce Curtis\*

Kris Gruber-Twardy

Helen Hartman\*

Kelly Olson\*

Term (2021–2024)

Janelle Allen\*

Michael Bradley\*

Bill Hunnex

Mary Jean Huston

## **Outgoing Council Members**

Bill Braham, Ryan Mattison, Lou Reynoldo

## **Nominees for 3-Year Term (2022–2025)**

Barb Hughes\*

George Alexander

Dan Ruge

Phil Schoech

## **Nominees for 1-Year Young-Adult Term (2022–2023)**

TBD

*\*Second 3-year term*

## **2022 Synod Assembly Representatives (1-year term)**

If the congregation votes to change the bylaws, the congregation will need to elect two members of the congregation to serve as representatives as the 2022 synod assembly. The Council has nominated the following two people to serve:

## **Nominees for 1-Year Term (2022–2023)**

Janelle Allen

TBD

# 2021 FINANCIAL EXPLANATIONS

## OPERATING FUND

At its annual meeting on February 7, 2021 the Luther Memorial (LM) congregation passed an operating budget of \$936,703 with a deficit gap of \$0. The following financial report provides an overview of the congregation's finances for 2021.

## **STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

**Income** Total actual 2021 operating income was \$958,420, which was 5% above budgeted income. Congregational giving makes up the largest share of overall income. Other sources of income include: seasonal and loose offerings, designated gifts, program income, wedding and concert income, parking lot income, income from U.S. cellular as well as grants from the LM Foundation from the Cornerstone Fund, the Program Fund and the Mission Fund.

**Expense** Expenses were \$23,537 over budget; higher in personnel, insurance and facilities areas and near budget in most other areas. South-Central Synod, Santa Maria and Lutheran Campus Ministry benevolences were paid in full as were LM Foundation Mission Fund grants. Please see the Pastors Report for additional benevolence information.

## **OPERATING DEDICATED ACCOUNTS**

2021 pre-paid pledges (amounts received late in one year but pledged for the next year) totaled \$59,438. Although pre-paid pledges are held in the operating checking account, they are brought over monthly from the dedicated line to the operating appeal line to keep income even throughout the year.

## **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

The operating checking account ended 2021 with a \$109,019 positive balance. This balance includes \$63,438 in pre-paid pledges for 2022. There was no need to use the operating credit line (\$60,000 limit) because the checking account maintained a

positive balance throughout 2021. The operating checking account earned \$306 in interest and incurred no service fees because of an adequate balance each month. Our relationship with Oak Bank in Fitchburg began in 2012 and continues to be a positive experience because of their excellent customer service, online banking, and the bank courier option, which provides a safe way to make weekly deposits.

## TRUST FUND

### **DEDICATED TRUST ACCOUNTS**

Trust dedicated account balances are held in the trust checking account and roll over from one year to the next. Both inflow and outflow are reflected in each account, but no budgets or pledges are affiliated with any of the accounts, and each account within the Trust Fund should maintain its own positive balance. LM trust dedicated accounts are organized into five areas: Benevolence; Staff Continuing Education; Music; Building; and Thanksgiving and Memorials. Within each area there are several accounts.

**Benevolence** Donations may be designated to Transitional Families, Pastors' Discretionary Fund, The Keep Food Pantry, Mission Trips, and University Outreach. Designated gifts received for specific benevolence recipients that do not have dedicated lines in the trust fund are deposited and expensed through the general operating budget.

**Continuing Education** These accounts receive budgeted income from the operating fund and are used for staff continuing education expenses. Because of the pandemic and limited continuing education opportunities for staff, these line items are larger than normal.

**Music** The Music Ministry fund is used at the discretion of the Director of Music for items not included in the general operating budget, such

as paying musicians for festival services. The New Pipe Organ fund, on the other hand, is an account that is holding funds designated for our new pipe organ purchase. This fund is expected to grow as we approach additional payments in preparation for the installation of a new pipe organ in the rear balcony in 2025.

**Building** These accounts include the following: Maintenance Reserve, used for unexpected building repairs; Equipment Reserve, used to pay for capital equipment replacement; Deposits for access cards and contracts for Grand Central parking and space in The Keep by UW student groups; Interest Income, for interest earned on funds in the Trust checking account; Nave A/V which is being used for current and future audio/visual equipment in the nave, and the Mills Street Building account that is used to pay for expenses related to our building at 325 N Mills St.

**Thanksgiving & Memorials** This area has two separate accounts – one for undesignated memorials and one for designated memorials (when a memorial is designated to a specific ministry either by the family or the donor).

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

The balance in the account on December 31 of \$574,159 included program area balances as follows:

<b>PROGRAM AREA</b>	<b>BALANCE ON 12/31/21</b>
Benevolence	\$ 57,319
Continuing Education	31,714
Music	334,301
Building	133,789
Thanksgiving & Memorials	17,034

**CAPITAL APPEAL BUILDING FUND**

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

**Income** in 2021 totaled \$296,408.

**Expense** in 2021 was \$185,760 including mortgage interest of \$104,782 and \$765 in credit line and mortgage renewal fees.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

The capital appeal checking account balance on December 31 was \$212,133. The Columbarium North Wall Receivable was reduced to \$0 in 2021 thanks to special giving by congregation members.

The mortgage was refinanced in April 2020. It is a 20-year amortized loan with a 5-year term at 4.5% maturing on March 17, 2025. Monthly mortgage payments are \$16,305 with principal and interest payments roughly equal. The year-end mortgage balance was \$2,246,852.





**Luther  
Memorial  
Church**