



I Corinthians 12:12-14

ONE

UNITED IN CHRIST

United Free Lutheran 2020 Annual Meeting

November 22, 2020

2020 Annual Pastor Report

Teaching/Preaching highlights:

- Lenten Services, teachings on Theology of the Cross
- Bible reading plan (website) and Facebook
- Zoom confirmation meetings last spring because of COVID
- Sermon and bulletin mailings during COVID

COVID brought a bump in the road, but presence of teaching through online, parking lot, and mail mediums has made the transition effective. Everyone is in touch with teaching in one way or another. The deacons recognize that I could get COVID and an adjustment would need to be made for the service during those times.

Training highlights:

- Men's Group (weekly, beginning August 29)
- FLY Beyond, youth camp (3 youth attended, July 19-23)

Training is important since this is a specific job for the pastor in Ephesians 4. Since you all have gifts, just as I do, my work is to train you to use these gifts to build the church.

Miscellaneous highlights:

- Youth Team meetings
- Annual Conference
- District Annual Meeting

Working together to minister to the youth has been a great opportunity to improve our youth ministry. The personal connections between youth group and confirmation are now closer as those ministries overlap.

Visitation highlights:

- Confirmation suppers
- First time visits to homes and farms, even during COVID
- Phone calls during COVID

As expected, visitation changed with COVID's entrance into our lives. Most visitation, especially with elderly, has been over the phone. The deacons and I have looked into the membership role before COVID, but the virus has made it hard to know who attends and who doesn't. Their support in striving for building up the church in unity is encouraging me in my task as pastor. Visitation must improve on my end to help keep the flock in touch.

Weddings:

- Blaire and Michele Berg's wedding, Feb. 29 (conducted by Pastor Tony Rogness; I did premarital preparation)
- Matthew and Miranda Green's wedding, August 8 at Galilee Bible Camp (both vows and premarital preparation)

Funerals:

- Dorothy Olson funeral (Dec. 30), conducted by Pastor Todd Erickson
- Faye Bjorgan's funeral, Feb. 15
- Avis Wiskow, funeral April 13; burial at Klondike cemetery, May 22
- LouAnne Holton burial at Bethlehem cemetery
- Ardith Waage funeral and burial, June 4

Baptisms:

- Isaak Daniel Evans, Feb. 10
- Signe Adelle Bukowski, March 14
- Taylor Ann Waage, April 26
- Norah Louise Niemela, June 13 (at the cabin near Grand Rapids)

The deacons and I recommend we have a council meeting Wednesday, December 16 at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor David Niemela

2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

November 24, 2019

Chuck called the meeting to order on November 24, 2018. Pastor David Niemela opened with Scripture from Ephesians 6:1-16 and Prayer. Pastor David gave Pastoral Reports from Pastor Wes Langaas and himself along with a Thank You from Pastor Wesley.

Doug gave the Secretary's Report.

Donnie read the Treasurer's Report.

Angie gave the WMF Report and the Treasurer's Report for WMF.

Trish gave the Christian Ed Report.

Lynn Strand reported on the Kids Club.

Shania Waage gave the Youth Group Report.

Matt gave a Cemetery Report – updated on the stones and markers for graves without a permanent marker and wanting to put Flag Poles at each Cemetery.

Steve Sovde made a motion to accept all the above reports, Avis Iverson seconded the motion; motion carried.

Old Business:

We need to add a furnace in the garage; everything else is paid for in the Remodeling of the Parsonage.

New Business:

Election of Officers was held. Roger made a motion to cease nominees, Avis Iverson seconded the motion, motion carried. Elected are: Council Member at large is Murray Jacobson, Deacon Jamie Sikorski, Trustee John Harder, Head Usher Craig Christianson, Christian Ed Joni Wiskow and Trish resigned; Kelly Christianson got her 1 year position,

Music Committee Robin Waage and Joel Mattson resigned; Jody Kirkeide got Joel's 1 year position, Avis Wiskow resigned her Librarian Position and Jenny Niemela got Librarian Position. Nominating Committee Blaire Berg, Roger Green and Steve Sovde were nominated. Auditing Committee is Steve Harder and Gary Vacura.

Angie Truscinski made a motion to put air conditioning and a heat pump in the Church and Dining Hall. Lynn Strand seconded the motion; motion carried to leave it up to the Council to get bids.

Work days will be coming up in the spring to place the permanent stones on the graves.

Steve Harder made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Craig Christianson; motion carried.

Doug Green, Secretary

United Free Lutheran
2020 Annual Treasurer's Report
Year Ending 10/31/20

Income:

Balance	\$22,883.04
Regular Offering	\$100,487.16
Church Rental (funeral)	\$500.00
Workmen's Comp. Refund	\$105.00
Interest Income	\$33.40
Memorial (General Fund)	\$90.00
Patronage Refund (RCCA)	\$18.00
Received from Thrivent	\$3,567.00
Special Offering - AFLC (General Fund)	\$4,530.00
- AFLC (World Missions)	\$784.15
- Military Biblesticks	\$692.00
- Seth Hart	\$500.00
- Galilee Bible Camp	\$1,900.00
<i>Total Funds Available</i>	\$136,089.75

Expenses:

Salaries	\$44,300.00
Mileage	\$836.00
City of Greenbush W/S/G	\$1,975.00
Electricity	\$3,849.97
Culligan & Softner Salt	\$656.80
Telephone	\$2,385.80
Office Supplies, Postage, Copy Machine . . .	\$2,527.97
AFLC Bulletins	\$312.20
Heat (Propane)	\$3,833.38
Building repairs & maintenance	\$1,699.74
Misc. Expense & Supplies	\$1,172.24
Property Insurance	\$4,377.00

Workmen's Compensation Insurance	\$445.00	
Roseau County Treasurer, Landfill tax	\$70.00	
Music & Video License & Books	\$1,054.11	
Snow Removal	\$725.00	
Mowing	\$200.00	
Cleaning Church	\$747.50	
Website (setting up)	\$569.00	
Parsonage (Heater-Garage)	\$1,964.00	
Equipment (Drive-in Church)	\$850.80	
Grave Markers (5)	\$625.00	
Thanksgiving Meal	\$1,375.09	
Guest Speakers & Meetings	\$406.78	
Air Conditioning (Received Rebate of \$7700 on 11/9)	\$21,668.10	
Donations		
- AFLC	\$6,520.00	
- AFLC (World Missions)	\$784.15	
- RBC Ministries (Daily Bread)	\$250.00	
- Galilee Bible Camp	\$3,000.00	
- Seth Hart	\$500.00	
- Military Biblesticks	\$692.00	
- Other Donations	\$1,445.00	
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$111,817.63	
<i>Ending Balance (10/31/20)</i>		\$24,272.12
Cemetery Fund	\$3,616.34	
Memorial Fund	\$957.28	
Scholarship Fund	\$1,510.00	

Don Christianson, Treasurer

United Free WMF 2020 Annual Report

*“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
Colossians 3:17*

As 2020 comes to a close, we have many things to be thankful for. One of the blessings I am most thankful for is a wonderful church family. A family that comes together when someone is in need, joins together for celebrations, lends helping hands for activities, and prays and studies God’s Word together.

The Women’s Missionary Federation started 2020 with a monthly Bible study written by Linda Korhonen titled “Don’t Follow Your Feelings.” We met monthly until March, when the coronavirus crisis hit Minnesota and the church building was closed under Stay Home Minnesota executive orders. Studies and meetings were then postponed until August 2020. In September and October, we met weekly to catch-up on the lessons we had missed over the spring and summer.

The quilting ladies made over 100 quilts this year. A large portion of these quilts were donated, with the rest able to be purchased by the congregation. Other accomplishments from the year include blood drives, potluck dinners, serving at funerals, and other meetings. We also donated to various charities and hope to continue doing so in the coming year.

All ladies are encouraged to attend the Bible Study and short business meetings each month.

~ Angie Truscinski

United Free Lutheran WMF

October 31, 2020

Beginning Balance 11.1.2019 \$3,813.97

Income

WMF Dinners and Lunches	\$1,743.00
Bible Study Books	\$239.00
WMF Christmas Party	\$450.75
Funerals/Memorials	\$1,200.00
Misc Donations	\$50.00
Quilts	\$630.00
Soup & Sandwiches	\$370.00
Lutheran Ambassador Subscriptions	\$433.00
Lost Check	\$55.94
Cards/Napkins	\$205.00
<i>Total Income</i>	\$5,376.69

Expenses

WMF to AFLC	\$3,025.00
Bible Study Books	\$720.00
Supplies	\$306.53
Lutheran Ambassador Subscriptions	\$456.00
USPS (postage)	\$242.15
WMF Speaker	\$100.00
Greenbush Food Shelf	\$450.75
Area Wide Women's Conference	\$100.00
NWCA (Reach out for Warmth)	\$500.00
KC's Market - various groceries	\$262.03
Border Bank - Scholarship fund	\$50.00
Treasurers Abounding - Cards	\$153.45
Cake - Angie Truscinski	\$55.94
Gift Cards - Angie Truscinski	\$100.00
Sharon Christianson - Quilt batting	\$293.83
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$6,815.68

Ending Balance 10/31/20 \$2,374.98

Scholarship Fund \$2,070.47

Christian Ed / Sunday School

2020 Annual Report

- Website: Last Spring during COVID shut down this allowed us to put links to lessons, worksheets, and a puppet show.
- VBS: The teams were cancelled and we decided not to have an in person VBS due to COVID. We put together 35 goody bags and delivered them to the kids. The theme was “Grow with God” and included seeds and a pot that they colored, an activity book, Orbeez and a snack.
- Sunday School: We debated whether we would do an in person or online only for this year. We decided to have in person for those who were comfortable and able and also to have it uploaded to the website for those that opted not to attend. Jenny records for us and then uploads it to the website. We have had anywhere from 10-20 kids each Sunday. We recently discussed how it is going, and we have decided to keep it as is.
- Christmas Program: We are going to move forward with an in-person program for those that are comfortable and able to participate. The program will take place on 12/13/20 during the church service.

Kids' Club

2020 Annual Report

Founded with the goal of storing God's Word in young hearts, the Kids' Club team was excited to see all of its students return in January following the 2019 winter break. We had a total of 16 students join us as we learned about some of the prophets in the Bible. Our day would include snacks, games, lessons, crafts, and memory work, and we were encouraged by the many positive comments we received from families.

As with almost every other happening across the state, the Kids' Club year was cut short due to the onset of COVID-19 and the state legislators' decision to close public buildings — including churches. Although life is not “back to normal” yet, Kids' Club was able to begin its 2020-2021-year mid-October, and has plans to continue until the week before Thanksgiving. Despite the virus still being present, each of our students from the spring returned to us and we welcomed six more, bringing our new total to 22 regular students. This year, we have been digging into the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, focusing on the namesake persons as well as Zerubbabel.

In addition to the new faces, we are also excited that some of the kids' mothers have been able to come alongside us helping with snack, transportation, and crowd management — and a couple mothers are looking to get even more involved! We have also started ending the day with a music session, focusing on songs that assist with Bible memory. To date, the kids have been learning Philippians 4:6-7: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God, and the peace of God, which transcends all

understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

While we are now wrapping up the 2020 portion of Kids’ Club, we are excited to see how God will use us in 2021, when we will hopefully reunite and continue learning why we can lean on Him no matter the circumstance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Niemela

Youth Group

2020 Annual Report

Youth group started September 2, 2020 with a pizza and bonfire night. That was the official start date of youth group and confirmation for the year. Throughout the summer, there had been a few bonfires here and there, and a few youth had even gone to FLY Beyond in Wisconsin with Pastor David. Jenny and Shania are heading up youth group, but there is a youth committee who met throughout the summer and discussed what we would like youth group in our church to look like.

Since the start of youth group this fall, there has been a pretty consistent group of guys coming every Wednesday. We are going through a study by Chip Ingram called “Love, Sex, and Lasting Relationships” and also memorizing a few verses. Every week there is a youth who volunteers to lead a short devotion to start off our youth group lesson time. Before the lesson time, the youth and confirmation together eat supper served by a confirmation family and then participate in a game that Pastor David leads. It has been a great way to get the confirmation students involved in youth group so that they get a taste of youth group and hopefully once confirmed, will want to be a part of it.

FUNDRAISING! Our youth group is always working on fundraising for things such as FLY, FLY Beyond, and other activities. This past summer the youth served coffee and donuts before church and did a drive-in lunch after church. The fundraiser we have going on right now is our annual fruit sales. Find a youth if you have not ordered yet! Since FLY includes any youth 6th grade-12th grade, we are adding the confirmation students and the current 6th graders in our church to our fundraising list!

We don't want to miss anyone, so if you know of someone who would like to go to FLY or would like to be a part of our youth group, let us know!

~ Shania Waage, Youth Leader

Thanksgiving Dinner 2020 Annual Report

*“We love, because He first loved us”
I John 4:19*

God has blessed us here at United Free far more abundantly than we could ever imagine, from the people of the congregation, to our financial position, and everything in between. This led to the start of the free Thanksgiving Community Dinner last year — not to boast in what we have, but to praise God in what He has given us, and to be able to give back and serve the community with love and expect nothing in return.

You all made this happen, and it was so encouraging to see how the dinner came together. It was, and truly is, a congregation effort from prayers, to working, to event planning. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus to Greenbush. We served about 300 people last year, and we look forward with excitement to serving the community again this year. With the covid restrictions currently in place, many people are not gathering with family this Thanksgiving, or are suffering from losses of income due to the restrictions throughout the year. Knowing how this has impacted our own and surrounding communities, we are excited to watch God use this dinner for His glory, and we're thankful we get to play a role in His work here on earth.

Please continue praying for the dinner and that people may come to know the Lord through it, or be encouraged, knowing someone is there and cares for them.

Thank you to each of you for using your gifts and may we continue to look to God to lead us in ministry opportunities.

2020 United Free Lutheran Cemetery

Committee Report

(Sexton Matthew Green, Rachel Green, Mike Kirkeide,
Brandon Waage, Heidi Witchurch)

The Cemetery Committee didn't meet in person due to covid precautions, but we had a group text conversation reviewing the year and ideas or changes for the future.

Review of 2020:

This year went well, regarding mowing and maintenance. The cemeteries looked great, so thank you to all who were involved and took time to keep them up. It's greatly appreciated! We had four burials this year including:

1. Dorothy Olson - Zion Cemetery
2. Aloy "Jane" Nelson - Pauli Cemetery
3. Lillian Howdahl - Pauli Cemetery
4. Ardith Waage – Zion Cemetery

We also had a couple partial workdays this spring and placed all the footstones (65) for those without markers or unknown graves. They turned out great and had many compliments on how nice they look, along with the cemetery without the metal temporary markers. Did find a couple of the old stones buried 4-6" under the ground when we came to place a new one, unknowing there was one there. Also, did have one family place a stone of some ancestors (Aanerud) at the Bethania Cemetery. Recently, we did get four old stumps ground down at the Zion Cemetery.

Current Projects:

We do have one current project we're mid progress on, building cemetery display boxes. We have one built, thanks to help of Blaire Berg, and have the materials to build three more, so each

cemetery will have a display box with a copy of the map, list of individuals buried there, and a little bit about the history of the church that stood there, along with our current church. There have been a couple private donations come in for that.

Future Projects:

We do have a couple ideas for future projects, both of which were brought up last year: (1) put flag poles up at the remaining cemeteries and (2) install benches at each cemetery. I have investigated both options a little bit. I'm waiting for some bids on flag poles, which depends on type, height, and pole diameter, but we feel this is the priority of projects. I did look into benches, as one individual wanted to donate towards a granite one, which could run anywhere from \$1,400-\$2,400 installed. The option was brought up to look at composite ones, which is much more cost effective. We will need a workday this spring to place the display boxes, clean up brush at Zion, and remove remaining concrete edges at Old Bethania to make mowing easier.

Policy Updates:

We have considered adding a couple things to the policy, but need to gather some more insight on them, and they wouldn't be able to go into effect now for next year anyway. One would be adding a "right of refusal"; unlikely to be used, but just in case we ever did need it. The other was a strong recommendation by a funeral director to require a family to get a bond for winter burials in case of any damages.

Matthew Green, Sexton

United Free Committee Leaders

Council Members at Large

Brian Berg (2020)
Doug Green (2021)
Murray Jacobson (2022)

Deacons (Spiritual)

Matt Green (2020)
Brandon Waage (2021)
Jamie Sikorski (2022)

Trustees (Building, Material, etc.)

Curt Christianson (2020)
Randy Dvergsten (2021)
John Harder (2022)

Treasurer

Don Christianson
(indefinite)

Head Usher

Craig Christianson (2020)

Christian Education Committee

Joni Wiskow (2020)
Anna Sikorski (2021)
Kelly Christianson (2022)

Music Committee

Jody Kirkeide (2020)
Shania Waage (2021)
Robin Waage (2022)

Librarian

Jennifer Niemela
(indefinite)

Memorial Fund Committee

Sharon Christianson
(indefinite)
Rachel Green
(indefinite)

Nominating Committee

Blair Berg (2020)
Roger Green (2020)
Steve Sovde (2020)

Auditing Committee

Steve Harder (2020)
Gary Vacura (2020)

AFLC NWMN District Annual Meeting

Recordings and the report booklet from the AFLC Northwest Minnesota District Annual Meeting can be accessed on our church website under the “About” tab.

www.unitedfreeaflc.com

United Free Lutheran Church

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COVID-19 Action Plan

How We Became "United"

NWMN District

What We Believe

What is the AFLC?

NWMN District 2020 Annual Meeting

Congreg... members of the AFLC Northwest Minnesota District gathered together for encouragement and insight at its annual... Lutheran Oct. 18, 2020. The event started with a 3:00 p.m. worship service, followed by a business meeting at 4:30 p.m. and supper at 5:30 p.m., and concluded with an evening worship service at 7:00 p.m. The worship services and business meeting were also virtually accessible via Facebook Live. Provided below are the streaming videos of each event.

Afternoon Worship Service



Order of Service

Welcome
Hymn: #542 Victory in Jesus
Devotions — Brian Berg
Special Music — Jody Kirkeide
Responsive Reading: pg. 138 AH
Proverbs 3:1-12
Hymn: #543 What A Fellowship
Message: "Endurance is the Miracle"
Colossians 1 By Pastor David Niemela

Hymn: #518 Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It
Lord's Prayer
Benediction

Business Meeting



Business Meeting Agenda

Click on the image (right) or button (below) to access the conference booklet, which includes reports from the different ministries within the AFLC Northwest Minnesota District.

Will He Find Faith?

