



# **United Free Lutheran 2021 Annual Meeting**

**November 21, 2021**

# 2021 Pastor Annual Report

From the By-Laws. II.2.b: The report of the Pastor concerning the spiritual conditions of the congregation, ministerial acts performed, and recommendations by the Board of Deacons.

**Spiritual Conditions of the congregation:** need for in-person fellowship around God's Word

- More pastoral visitation: 55/80 family units contacted (outside of church service) both in-person (at one of our homes, in office, or elsewhere) and over the phone. Many of these are over-the-phone because of COVID. In next year's report, I should only count the in-person pastoral visits (with prayer and devotion), both because those visits are more meaningful and COVID has slowed, opening up in-person opportunities in the past year.
- Opportunities to fellowship around God's Word (not all led by me, of course):
  - Sunday school (both adult and kids)
  - Kids Club
  - special meetings
  - youth group
  - confirmation
  - men's group
  - Saturday Women's study
- Church membership classes (January-February)
- WMF
- Lent services
- District Events: Mid-Winter Bible Conference (we hosted in February); retreats, Bible Camps

- These were all opportunities outside of the regular church service to study God's Word. These are important to be engaged in God's Word and fellowship.
- Reached out to 15 family units whom we don't see in-person, checking in and/or telling them I miss them and inviting them back.

### **Ministerial Acts Performed:**

#### Funerals

- Donna Y. Anderson, funeral 2-5-21
- Marie E. Clow, funeral 5-15-21
- Glenn A. Iverson, funeral 11-2-21
- Melroy F. Wiskow, visitation service 11-7-21

#### Baptisms

- Sven Juel Anderson, 3-27-21
- Maggie LaMae Johnson, 5-23-21

#### Confirmations (April 25)

- Sawyer Strand
- Christian Berg
- Clara Bergsnev
- Cole Blazek
- Dalton Waage
- Holly Wiskow
- Katelyn Waage (guest)

### **Recommendations of the Board of Deacons:**

- Each committee choose/elect a leader to streamline communication to pastor
- Have a representative from Kid's Club on the Christian Education committee, if possible

Respectfully,

Pastor David Niemela

# 2020 UFCLC Annual Meeting Minutes

Nov. 22, 2020

Brian called the meeting to order.

Pastor led us in Scripture and prayer.

Brian called on Murray to give the 2019 annual meeting minutes.

Brian called on Pastor to give his pastoral report.

Donnie gave the treasurer's report.

Joni gave the Christian Ed. report.

Angie gave the WMF report and the WMF treasurer's report.

Jenny gave the Kids' Club report.

Shania gave the youth group report.

Matt gave the Thanksgiving Dinner report, and he also gave the cemetery committee report.

Steve Sovde made a motion to accept all reports; Jamie Sikorski seconded; motion carried.

## **Old business:**

Lyle made a motion to accept changes to our constitution that were discussed. See attached.

## **New business:**

Avis made a motion for the board to make a decision on the church signs; Angie seconded; motion carried.

Discussed what we should do about the traffic going by the church/parsonage where they are not supposed to.

Election of officers was held. Steve made a motion to cease nominees; Craig seconded. Motion carried.

Elected are:

Council member at large is Brian Berg

Deacon, Matt Green

Trustee, Craig Christianson

Head usher, Curt Christianson

Music committee, Jodi Kirkeide

Christian Ed, Trish Waage and Joni Wiskow

Motion was made by Glenn Iverson to adjourn. Seconded by Sharon Christianson.

Respectfully,

Murray Jacobson, Secretary

# United Free Lutheran Annual Treasurer's Report

Year Ending 10/31/21

## *Income:*

Balance	11/1/2020	\$24,272.12
Regular Offering		\$129,441.84
Trans. from Cemetery Fund (Grave Markers)		\$435.00
Workmen's Comp. Refund		\$11.00
Interest Income		\$4.95
Memorial (General Fund)		\$95.00
Patronage Refund (RCCA)		\$15.90
Received from Thrivent		\$3,742.00
Special Offering – AFLC (General Fund)		\$8,340.00
– AFLC (World Missions)		\$1,300.00
– Military Biblesticks		\$835.00
– Galilee Bible Camp		\$1,620.00
<b><i>Total Funds Available</i></b>		<b>\$170,112.81</b>

## *Expenses:*

Salaries	\$45,900.00
City of Greenbush W/S/G	\$2,041.33
Electricity	\$5,048.79
Culligan & Softner Salt	\$507.40
Telephone	\$2,030.23

Office Supplies, Postage, Copy Machine . . .	\$2,887.80
AFLC Bulletins	\$320.97
Heat (propane)	\$2,839.11
Building Repairs & Maintenance	\$357.54
Misc. Expense & Supplies	\$874.44
Property Insurance	\$4,521.00
Workmen's Compensation Insurance	\$445.00
Roseau County Treasurer, Landfill tax	\$70.00
Music & Video License & Books	\$1,533.53
Snow Removal	\$306.25
Mowing	\$200.00
Cleaning Church	\$1,416.18
Website	\$629.00
Lenten Speakers	\$120.00
Grave Markers	\$435.00
Thanksgiving Meal	\$1,339.46
Guest Speakers & Meetings	\$920.00
Youth Group Trip to the ARC	\$3,000.00
NW District Bible Camp	\$1,460.00
VBS Team	\$1,550.00
Gbsh. Food Shelf	\$1,010.00
VBS	\$100.00
Agassiz Asphalt (Parking Lot)	\$60,669.00
Kids' Club	\$1,000.00

Donations – AFLC	\$8,340.00
– AFLC (World Missions)	\$1,300.00
– Military Biblesticks	\$835.00
– Galilee Bible Camp	\$1,620.00
<b><i>Total Expenses</i></b>	<b><i>\$155,627.03</i></b>

***Ending Balance (10/31/20)*** ***\$14,485.78***

***Cemetery Fund***           \$6,578.79

***Memorial Fund***           \$1,003.23

***Scholarship Fund***       \$1,510.00

Respectfully,

Don Christianson, Treasurer

# United Free Lutheran Women's Missionary Federation

## 2021 Annual Report

Greetings from the WMF,

In 2021 we did an inductive study on 1 Timothy. Why is what you believe important? Does it matter what we do at church? Does it matter how we live? Should we have requirements for our pastors? God has given us clear teaching on the role of the church. He wants us to hear His Word. He wants our churches teaching and our beliefs to be the same doctrine found in the Bible. Only teaching from God's Word has the power to create repentance, faith and love. Jesus came to save sinners and He brings His salvation to the world through His Word, preached and believed by the Church.

We enjoyed the fellowship and bible study this year. We had attendance of between 8-15 ladies and encourage others to attend, or to set up another time, if others would like.

The WMF served in many capacities in 2021. We served the NW District Bible Conference in February. Potlucks also started in February, donated quilts to many people, charities and the Alaska Mission. We also served supper for half the Lenten services. The WMF hosted the spring District WMF meeting; what a blessing those speakers are to us. We cleaned the boys' dorm at Galilee Bible Camp and helped cook one day during Bible Camp, served lunch for funerals and coordinated two blood drives for the community. Several ladies attended the National WMF Conference at the Bible College this summer. Donations were given to various charities, such as the Northwest Region Pregnancy Center, NW Community Action for Reach Out for Warmth, Kids' Club, monthly projects of the National WMF, Food Backpack program for school kids and other areas. The WMF also purchases box of cards for sympathy,

birthday, and other. These are in the back of the overflow area and are for sale.

The Bible Study for 2022 is on Psalms titled Behold Our God, written by Karen Floan, Anne Presteng, Gwen Berge and Wendy Westlake

“As we behold God in Psalms 90-100, we are overwhelmed with His mighty power as Creator and Ruler of heaven and earth. We are humbled by His holiness and His plan of Salvation. We see His faithfulness in our lives and throughout all generations.

“Overwhelmed by joy or overtaken by sorrow, God hears the cry of our hearts, He draws us to Himself, and His presence changes us. It is the Almighty God who lovingly commands us to praise Him for our good and His glory.

“May you be blessed as you “Behold our God” in the Psalms. Cost \$13 each, includes the cost of shipping” (2022 study).

Elections were held for the 2022 year and the officers are: Angie Truscinski, President; Arlene Jenson, VP; Sharon Christianson, Secretary; Paulette Nelson, Treasurer; and Anna Mattson, Mission Secretary.

WMF meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at 6:45pm. All ladies are welcome to attend and participate in the Bible Study, which is followed by a short business meeting.

Respectfully,

Angie Truscinski

# United Free WMF Treasurer's Report 2021

Oct. 31, 2021

*Beginning Balance November 1, 2020* \$2,374.98

## Income:

WMF Dinners and Lunches \$5,314.15

Cards/Napkins \$250.00

Bible Study Books \$264.00

Funerals \$250.00

Misc. Donations \$250.00

Quilts \$170.00

Soup & Sandwich \$311.00

Lutheran Ambassadors \$481.00

Memorials \$120.00

NW District Rally (1/2 of registration) \$210.00

Total Income: \$9,995.13

## Expenses:

WMF to AFLC \$3,380.00

Supplies \$110.29

North Region Pregnancy Care Center \$500.00

Lutheran Ambassador \$528.00

USPS (postage) \$154.25

NWCA (reach out for warmth) \$500.00

Country Market & Other Groceries	\$169.41
District WMF	\$200.00
Kids' Club	\$100.00
Treasures Abounding (cards/napkins)	\$220.60
NW MN Foundation (lunches for school kids)	\$200.00
Total Expenses:	\$6,062.55
Ending Balance:	\$3,932.58

Scholarship Fund: \$2,072.05

Paulette Nelson, Treasurer

# **United Free Lutheran Christian Education Committee**

## **Annual Report 2020-2021**

### **Sunday School Dec-2020-May-2021**

- We had our 2020 Christmas program and we assigned roles and practiced the day before the program. This was due to the uncertainty with who would be available due to COVID and quarantine.
- For the balance of Sunday School last year, we were in person and it was also available online.
- Our last day of Sunday School was May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

### **VBS 2021**

- We had a team that joined us for the week. They each had a group of kids that were assigned to them for the entire week which allows them to get to know the kids. The kids love this and become comfortable with their group leader.
- We had 40-60 kids that showed up each day.
- We raised \$870 during the final night program and this money went to the Gator Gap Fund. This is to provide supplies for kids in need.
- Angie and the ladies served supper each evening before VBS began.
- Trish led crafts and her and Heidi worked to fill in and get creative to accommodate higher numbers than we had expected.
- Lisa was at registration and floated where she was needed each day.
- Joni was in the pre-school room and there were 12-17 3-year and 4-year olds each day.
- Pastor David and Jenny were there each day to assist where needed
- We had other adult and teen volunteers that gave their time to make it a great week for the kids.

## **Sunday School Sep-2021 – present**

- We started back to Sunday School on September 19, 2021.
- This year has been just in person, not online as of now.
- We have had from 10 kids to around 30 kids depending on the Sunday.
- We finished with our curriculum of the Old Testament that we started last year. We have now moved on to the 10 commandments that we will continue through the second half of the year.
- We will be having a Christmas Program on December 12, 2021 during the 10am church service.

## **Sunday School Expenses**

- Our yearly expenses include the following:
  - Sunday School
    - Treat bags for the kids at Christmas
  - VBS
    - The VBS Team
    - Decorations
    - Crafts
    - Snacks

Respectfully,

United Free Christian Education

# 2021 Kids Club Annual Report

Kids Club was held from January through May. We studied Old Testament lessons from Creation to Moses and the Israelites crossing the Red Sea. The schedule each week includes games, snacks, Bible lessons, crafts/activities, and music/memory. A total of 25 kids were signed up and most weeks there were 20+ kids.

April 2nd, Good Friday, we held a Resurrection Day with kids from the community and church for Easter activities/games.

On May 5th, we had our first Kids Club Program and supper for kids and their family members.

Our fall program started the first of October for a six-week session. We again are following the same schedule and have around 25 students. Our lessons are continuing in the Old Testament. We praise God for the opportunity to share His Word with these littles and pray they continue to develop a relationship with Him as they grow older. God is good.

Mission Statement: Our hearts desire and prayer for Kids Club is that each child may be saved (Romans 10:1) and that they hide God's Word in their hearts (Psalm 119:11).

Respectfully,

Lynn Strand

# 2021 Music Committee Report

The music committee has met a few times now and discussed our responsibilities for music in our congregation. We put together piano players each Sunday (if you would like to play and we don't have you down, let us know!) and have also put together signup sheets for special music and praise and worship teams.

Special music takes place every 2nd Sunday, and is needed for special services throughout the year. We welcome families, kids, instrumentals, or solos for special music. We are hoping to get the praise and worship teams set and figured out to start the first of the year. We have enough people willing to play and sing for two teams! One team will practice and play for the first Sunday of the month and the other team will practice and play for the fourth Sunday of the month. The third Sunday is set aside for the Sunday School to sing.

This fall, we decided to put together a Christmas choir and possible Christmas chimes for the Christmas Eve service. The Christmas choir is practicing now under the direction of Dawn Baumgartner. We look forward to continuing to grow the music in our church as we have many talented people.

“Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.” Psalm 96:1-4

Respectfully,

Robin Waage, Jody Kirkeide, and Shania Waage

# 2021 Youth Report

The youth committee has met a few times throughout the year to work on youth group and fundraising ideas. This past summer we were supposed to send youth to Colorado for the Free Lutheran Youth Convention (FLY), but the event ended up being canceled. So, instead of going to FLY, we planned a trip (that included the whole church) to the Creation Museum and ARK Encounter. Quite a few youths went and enjoyed their time there, and instead of coming right home, four guys stayed back and attended the AFLC Annual Conference youth events. Right after that it was teen camp at Galilee Bible Camp. As much as we missed going to FLY, there were many opportunities this summer for the youth, and we were so grateful they got to enjoy them!

Before school started, we met as a youth committee and talked about the coming year. We decided to split the youth group between guys and girls since we had a solid group of guys coming and felt they needed a male leader. We reached out to Cole Hamre and asked if he would be willing to lead this group of guys. He was very willing and eager to work with the guys and help them grow in their walk with the Lord. Jenny and Shania have been leading a girls' study with one youth, and we ask you to pray for more to come. We are going through Galatians right now, but plan to start the study "Lies Young Women Believe and the Truth that Sets Them Free" after the first of the year. We would LOVE to have more join us, and please know you are always welcome, guys and girls!

We are still fundraising and working to get our funds back up. One fundraiser right now is the annual fruit sale! This fundraiser will go until November 28th and you can order from a youth, online, or from the table that is setup after church. This table will also be set up during the Community Thanksgiving Dinner if you would like to order that day. We also plan on having a few other fundraisers throughout the year, so be on the lookout for those! Respectfully, Shania Waage

# 2021 Community Thanksgiving Dinner Report

In response to the positive reception of the first free Thanksgiving Dinner, launched in 2019, the congregants of United Free Lutheran decided to provide the free meal again in 2020. The format looked different than the first year, mainly due to government mandates in place attempting to control the COVID-19 pandemic. The biggest adjustment was that all meals were pickup or delivery only; no dine-in was available.

Despite this, we served 345 meals. Orders could be placed ahead-of-time through the church website, where orders could be customized to the individual. Pastor David greeted cars as they pulled into the parking lot, and transferred names and orders via walkie-talkie. The information was then relayed runners who brought meals out to the vehicles. Servers were kept busy loading to-go boxes, and delivery drivers left around noon.

The planning committee is finalizing preparation for another free dinner this year, and is anticipating the same number of guests to partake. Dine-in eating is available again through reservation, which can be placed on the church website, and take-out and delivery options are again available. This is the first year we are offering deliveries to Middle River. The meal remains the same as the previous two years: turkey, ham, corn, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberries, a dinner roll, and dessert. Meals are only customizable by meat choice, unless there are medical restrictions.

Our prayer is that those who would be blessed by this meal would indeed come or allow us to deliver. “We love because He first loved us,” 1 John 4:19, continues to be our theme verse for this event. May those who need to know our Savior’s love catch a glimpse of it through this Thanksgiving meal, which is only possible through the grace of God.

Respectfully,  
Jennifer Niemela

# **2021 United Free Lutheran Cemetery Committee Report**

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

This past year was a fairly quiet year for the cemeteries, which is always a good thing. We had four burials this year:

1. Roynell Erickson – Pauli Cemetery
2. Donna Anderson – Pauli Cemetery
3. Johnathan Linder – Pauli Cemetery
4. Kirby Roberts – Bethania Cemetery

As for maintenance and upkeep, this year went very well. There wasn't much mowing to be done with the drought. We did some brush cleaning this spring at the Zion Cemetery in the northwest corner, and will do another portion of it next spring. I also had three more headstones that were laid, one of which was a previously unknown grave that was identified.

In regards to project updates, we got the display boxes made and maps printed off, so they can be installed next spring. Also, with funds available now, we'd like to purchase flag poles for the three cemeteries that don't have (Bethania, Old Bethania, & Pauli). I tried calling some companies last winter on getting prices but never got anywhere, so will continue looking. Pricing will depend upon height and product material. If enough funds remain, we'll look at installing some granite benches as well. If anyone has any other ideas, feel free to contact myself or anyone else on the board, we're always looking for more ways to improve our cemeteries.

Thank you for all your hard work, support, and contributions!

Matthew Green, Sexton

# **United Free Committee Leaders**

## **Council Members at Large**

Doug Green (2021)

Murray Jacobson (2022)

Brian Berg (2023)

## **Deacons (Spiritual)**

Brandon Waage (2021)

Jamie Sikorski (2022)

Matt Green (2023)

## **Trustees (Building, Material, etc.)**

Randy Dvergsten (2021)

John Harder (2022)

Craig Christianson (2023)

## **Treasurer**

Don Christianson (indefinite)

## **Head Usher**

Curt Christianson (2021)

## **Christian Education Committee**

Trish Waage (2021)

Kelly Christianson (2022)

Joni Wiskow (2023)

## **Music Committee**

Shania Waage (2021)

Robin Waage (2022)

Jody Kirkeide (2020)

## **Librarian**

Jennifer Niemela (indefinite)

## **Memorial Fund Committee**

Sharon Christianson (indefinite)

Rachel Green (indefinite)

## **Nominating Committee**

Blair Berg (2021)

Roger Green (2021)

Steve Sovde (2021)

## **Auditing Committee**

Steve Harder (2021)

Gary Vacura (2021)