

**SPRING 2021  
SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING**



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**COUNCIL ELECTION  
PROGRAM SUMMARIES  
Of  
OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**825 Golf Ave SW  
Pine City, MN 55063**

**Meeting to be held on  
April 25, 2021  
10:00 AM**

# Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

## Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda

Sunday, April 25, 2021

### Opening prayer

1. **Confirm a quorum is present**
2. **Review of the minutes of the previous meeting**
3. **Reports**
  - a. Pastor(s) and other called staff
  - b. President and other Members of Congregation Council
  - c. Financial income report
  - d. Treasurer's expense report
  - e. Other committees, task forces, and small group reports
  - f. Nominating Committee – slate of candidates

### 4. **Elections**

Four council seats are open for election: Erin Anderson, Rich Elliot, Ashley Espeseth, and Diane Lombard are eligible for another 3-year term and are willing to run again.

### 5. **Unfinished business**

**Resolution:** That the church council be given the authority to approve the minutes of the 2021 Spring Semi-Annual Meeting.

**Resolution:** That we recognize our church staff: Leigha Lange, Todd Cummings, Rebecca Groe, Glenna Reiersen, Diane Vander Venter, Steve Schmidt, Doug Pieper, Nathaniel Gross and Pastor John.

**Resolution:** That we recognize our worship leaders, committee volunteers and all who graciously give of their time to serve Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in a variety of ways.

### Closing prayer

#### **Church Council Members**

President: Kris Gross / Vice President: Ashley Espeseth  
Treasurer: Diane Lombard / Secretary: Greg Lea  
Worship & Music: Diane Lombard  
Administration & Facility: Wayne Hansmann, Brent Weiss, John Schille  
Faith Formation & Education: Rich Elliot, Ashley Espeseth  
Congregational Care: Gail Mattison  
Congregational Life: Kyle Nascene, Eric Wicktor  
Mission & Outreach: Erin Anderson

# ORLC 2020 SEMI-ANNUAL FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**November 1, 2020 ~ 9:30 am**

The ORLC Congregational meeting was called to order by President Kris Gross. It was announced that there was a quorum of attendees both in person and on line for the meeting.

Agenda for the meeting was unanimously approved following a motion from Dave Beckstrand and a second from Mary Jo Mettler. The agenda include review of the prior congregation meeting, report of the nominating committee, elections, financial reports, approval of the proposed 2021 Church Budget, President's report, Staff reports from Pastor Stiles and Leigha Lange, and then adjournment.

Secretary Greg Lea presented the prior congregation meeting minutes that already had been approved by the Church Council.

The Nomination Committee(Lois Bengston) presented candidates for the Synod Assembly(Mary Anderson, Dave Beckstrand, Sue Beckstrand), Endowment Committee(Penny Hudlow for 2 years, Dan Blake for 3 years), and Nominating Committee(Lois Bengston, Vicki Pieper). President Kris Gross called for nominations from the floor. None were received so the candidates from the nominating committee slate ere unanimously approved following a motion from Lynn Drewa and a second from Carol VanderHork.

Financial Income and Expense Reports for 2020 were presented by Steve Schmidt and Diane Lombard. Then the proposed ORLC budget for 2021 was presented by Steve and Diane. A motion was made by Trudy Woods with a second from Doug Pieper for approve the proposed 2021 budget. A unanimous vote for approval followed.

Ilene Haavisto updated the congregation of the Audit Committee reviews. Thanks also to the Audit Committee for the efforts during 2020 as well as a thanks for the Finance Committee for the work in 2020 and the proposed 2021 Church Budget.

Kris Gross presented the President's Report offering congratulations to the congregation and council, a thank you to Pastor Stiles, the focus on the ORLC Congregation listening to GOD's with our activities in the community and conforming to God's agenda.

Pastor John Stiles presented his report with emphasis on the uncertain times ahead of us in this world by offering guidance as we move through these times. He offered the following advice. Before you speak make sure it is truth, if you speak, are the words kind, and is it necessary to speak. If so please consider that it is good testimony for our faith. He mentioned that he is grateful to the congregation, excited to be part of the congregation and wanted to thank the staff and council for their support. He wanted to emphasize that ministry of ORLC is still happening during these uncertain times with COVID 19.

Leigha Lange presented the Children, Youth and Families report. She wanted to thank all members of the congregation for all the ways they supported and provided programming for the families and youth of ORLC.

A resolution was then passed allowing the Church Council to approve these minutes of the Fall 2020 Congregation Meeting. Lynn Drewa made the motion to accept the resolution followed by a second by John Oare. The resolution was unanimously approved.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Lynn Drewa with a second by Coleman Lombard. The congregation then closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer. *Submitted by, Greg Lea*

## 2021 PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT / John Stiles

*Shining God's LIGHT into the darkness, bringing HOPE where there is despair, and HEALING where there is hurt.*

Beloved of God, there are no words to describe how it feels to be your pastor. I can't tell you how grateful I am to have been so warmly welcomed into this community of faith. I often joke that I never got my "potluck" dinner when I started out. Instead, I received much more: a potluck of praise, encouragement and support for our new beginnings in Pine City! You have made me a better pastor and person. I hope the same can be said for the gifts I bring to you. It hasn't even been a year, but already I feel like I've gotten to know so many of you in spite of the pandemic.

Speaking of which, I would like to acknowledge the important work of our **Smart Team**. Over the last several months, these people have been working to ensure a safe learning and worshipping environment at Our Redeemer. Unfortunately, that has also meant that we have had to close the building for part of last year. And yet, in spite of it all, we have continued to march on with important ministries like Picnic Church, outdoor worship, confirmations, first communion, baptisms, funerals, youth bonfires, physically distanced VBS, livestreaming of worship, expanding our puppet troop for children's time and many other important ministries that help us live out our mission statement (listed above). *Thank you* for hanging in there with us through these trying times.

**Generous Giving** was also a key characteristic of this congregation through the Leone Ledin Lighting Fund, the benefit for Diane Vander Venter, the Pack The Pews food drive, the renewed commitment to our missionaries Tim & Maria Staudahardt, the ongoing improvements made through our Environmental Arts Team, plus countless other offerings that came in to support the mission of Our Redeemer, the Northeastern MN Synod and the work of the church around the world. **THANK YOU!**

Last fall we marked a significant milestone that was well worth the wait: the **Burning of the Mortgage!**

Since 2007, a whopping \$284,700 in church debt was paid off (including principle and interest). In 2020, the council approved the motion to make the final payment of \$37,210. The generosity of this congregation, even during a difficult year, has been astounding to me!

A huge thank you goes out to our **Church Council**, especially our President, Kris Gross, for her leadership of the council and executive board this past year! We often take for granted the folks who make sure the workings of the church "keep on working" (literally) behind the scenes. Whether it's a property matter or a staffing situation, your elected leadership is there day-in-and-day-out giving of their time to ensure the mission of ORLC is carried out to the best of our ability.

That said, I also want to thank the **Church Staff** for their tireless work during this Covid year of transition. To Diane Vander Venter, Todd Cummings, Leigha Lange, Glenna Reiersen, Abby Lombard, Rebecca Groe, Doug Pieper and Steve Schmidt. We owe our paid staff a world of gratitude for who they are and all they do for this church! I am especially grateful for Diane Vander Venter's many years of service, as she stepped down for medical reasons from the staff. So happy she is with us still through the music ministries. This year, we also honored Glenna Reiersen for 47 years of dedication to leading worship, choirs, soloists, etc. We are so blessed by the people who make up this staff and I think they're doing fantastic work!

Looking forward, there is little certainty about what lies around the corner. We are living out the faith in the midst of great societal change, a warming climate and a racial reckoning that will test the very fabric of our common life. But the one thing that never changes is the love we have in Jesus – the living center of our community that will never fail so long as we keep coming back to him. To that end, I can only say, "Amen, bring it on!" I am here for whatever the Lord sends our way in the coming year. Won't you join us?

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor John Stiles



2020 Statistics: baptisms (4), weddings (0), funerals (7), confirmed (15), new members received (2), Avg. weekly worship attendance (97).

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Church ministry at ORLC has been challenging in light of the pandemic. Traditional ministry, fellowship and worship have been different than what we are accustomed to. But with these challenges have come opportunities to reach out in non-traditional ways and even adopt new means of ministry. Who would have thought we would have begun our church year in the parking lot with our Spring Semi-Annual meeting last May. Or that we could only have outdoor services during the summer of 2020? Or that the snowbirds could still be a part of ministry here even though many miles from home?

Our Smart Team members include Pastor Stiles, Leigha Lange, Greg Lea, Kris Clementson and Doug Pieper. They have been busy keeping up with government orders, while trying to allow for ministry to continue at ORLC. The use of electronic ministry, including live streaming and zoom meetings, have helped to keep us functioning. Church organizations and committees, funerals and church use by outside agencies have slowly begun again and we look forward to being able to become fully functioning with food and fellowship in the future!

During the past few years ORLC has undergone several changes. Some of these include changes in our pastoral staff, office staff, the pandemic which closed the church and programs, and deciding on one data base, Church Windows. Through these changes, problems with our membership lists have become apparent. Several of us are working on this project to update our current membership list. We anticipate that as we work through these lists, we will be in contact with you to confirm your membership status along with contact information for each family member. Please be aware of the process and return any communication that you may receive in a timely manner. Categories of membership include but are not limited to:

- Active Members: those who have been in attendance and giving within the past calendar year.
- Inactive Members: those who have been members but have not been in attendance or given financially to the ministry during the past year.
- Associate Members – Active members elsewhere but attending and participating in membership here.
- Transferred membership: those who are now members in another church.
- We will also need to update family units, adding additional children along with baptism and confirmation dates and separating family units in which the children are now adult children forming their own family unit.

The task force for Policy and Procedures at ORLC has continued to review and update policies within our church. The Personnel Policy and Children & Youth Safety Policy have been written and approved by council. We are hoping to gather all the policies into one master binder located in the church office for access by everyone interested or as needed. This is an ongoing project with many variables to it. If your ministry has a mission statement, policy, or specific procedures please share a copy with the church office for inclusion in the master binder.

We have been blessed with the members on church council who have served this year. Especially those who have agreed to serve an additional term. We serve ORLC, so do let us know of your concerns, comments and positive actions within our church body.

Members of the Church Council and current assignments (reassignment happens after the Spring Semi-Annual meeting):

- Administration and facility: Wayne Hansmann, Brent Weiss and John Schille
- Faith Formation: Rich Elliot and Ashley Espeseth
- Congregational Life: Kyle Nascene and Eric Wicktor
- Mission and Outreach: Erin Anderson
- Congregational Care: Gail Mattison
- Worship and Music: Diane Lombard
- Treasurer: Diane Lombard
- Secretary: Greg Lea
- Vice President: Ashley Espeseth
- President: Kristen Gross

We want to thank every one of you at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church who have contributed to our ministry through your giving financially and through your time and talents. *Thank you!*

*President, Kristen Gross*

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Semi-Annual booklet was done showing a five month review of numbers instead of the regular six months. The following reports included are: balance sheet, budget comparison and the key financial statistic comparison. We will report any updates or changes at the meeting on April 25, 2021. If you have any questions or concerns please see anyone on the Finance Committee. Members of the finance committee are: Pastor John, Steve Schmidt, Sue Osterdyk, Kristi Davis and Diane Lombard.

We would like to tell everyone **THANK YOU!** For doing your part to help us stay on budget. To the committees who are watching and/or reducing their spending. To council for being mindful of requests and reviewing the cost effectiveness along with need and timing of requests. And most importantly to the congregation for their giving. Without your giving the daily function of the church as well as special projects would not happen. Please note that even though it appears that our general giving is up from last year that is in part due to the PPP Grant and the Pine County CARES grant. Please continue to give for the daily church function and then if you can for special projects as they come up.

*Respectively the Finance Committee*



**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of February 28, 2021

	<u>Feb 28, 21</u>	<u>Feb 29, 20</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Checking/Savings</b>		
<b>1000 - Cash Accounts</b>		
<b>999-00 - Frandsen Bank and Trust</b>		
1000-00 - General Operating Account	55,442	11,538
<b>1000-96 - Restricted Funds</b>		
1000-22 - Designated Heritage Fund	110	-91
1000-24 - Designated Memorial	0	690
1000-25 - Faith Boxes Fund	247	486
1000-26 - Pastoral Comp. Savings	0	24,591
1000-46 - Norm Ophelm Scholarship Fund	1,890	0
1000-50 - Music Fund	369	369
<b>1000-53 - Designated Property &amp; Grounds</b>		
1000-54 - Designated Sound System Fund	52	52
1000-55 - Property & Grounds Projects	88	1,386
1000-57 - Designated Carpet Fund	1,225	1,225
1000-59 - Designated Garden/Flower Fund	2,200	2,407
1000-61 - Designated Youth Room Updates	354	354
1000-64 - Leone LedIn Lighting Fund	7,053	8,500
1000-66 - Flag Expense Fund	468	0
<b>Total 1000-53 - Designated Property &amp; Grounds</b>	<u>11,440</u>	<u>13,924</u>
1000-70 - Undesignated Memorial/Gift Fund	6,094	5,981
1000-74 - Rainy Day Missions Fund	5,294	3,478
1000-75 - Designated Youth Fund	1,541	1,541
1000-76 - Campership Award Fund	3,357	3,271
1000-77 - Lutherpoint Campership Fund	1,938	1,938
1100-91 - Property Improve. Reserve Fund	5,000	1,250
<b>Total 1000-96 - Restricted Funds</b>	<u>37,280</u>	<u>57,428</u>
<b>Total 999-00 - Frandsen Bank and Trust</b>	<u>92,722</u>	<u>68,966</u>
<b>Total 1000 - Cash Accounts</b>	<u>92,722</u>	<u>68,966</u>
<b>1100-14 - Our Redeemer Lutheran Endowment</b>		
1000-04 - Endowment-Insurance Deductible	5,000	5,000
1000-06 - Endowment-Weldemann Fund	5,182	5,182
1000-07 - Endowment-Emergency Fund	12,000	12,000
1000-08 - Change In Market Value-Endow.	14,338	5,945
1100-14 - Our Redeemer Lutheran Endowment - Other	44,000	44,000
<b>Total 1100-14 - Our Redeemer Lutheran Endowment</b>	<u>80,520</u>	<u>72,127</u>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>173,242</u>	<u>141,093</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>173,242</u>	<u>141,093</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<u>1,972,662</u>	<u>1,954,701</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>2,145,904</u></u>	<u><u>2,095,794</u></u>

**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of February 28, 2021

	<u>Feb 28, 21</u>	<u>Feb 29, 20</u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current Liabilities	5,034	5,108
Long Term Liabilities	0	38,549
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>5,034</u>	<u>43,657</u>
<b>Equity</b>	<u>2,140,872</u>	<u>2,052,138</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>2,145,906</u></u>	<u><u>2,095,795</u></u>

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Budget Comparison  
February 28, 2021

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	<u>YTD Feb '21</u>	<u>YTD 2021</u>	<u>Yr End 2021</u>
<b>Budgetary Expenses</b>			
<b>Compensation Expenses</b>			
5000-10 · Pastoral Compensation			
5001-10 · Pastoral Salary	31,405	31,405	75,372
5030-00 · Pension & Benefits	3,628	4,461	10,707
<b>Total 5000-10 · Pastoral Compensation</b>	<b>35,033</b>	<b>35,866</b>	<b>86,079</b>
5004-00 · Faith Formation Director	19,699	19,152	45,964
5010-05 · Staff Replacement/Coverage Expense	-	417	1,000
5010-10 · Office Administrator	6,020	17,376	41,703
5020-00 · Payroll Taxes & FICA	2,333	3,216	7,719
5025-00 · Custodian	4,776	4,776	11,463
Salary Adjustment Contingency 2021	-	2,083	5,000
<b>Total 5000-00 · Compensation Expense</b>	<b>67,861</b>	<b>82,887</b>	<b>198,929</b>
5014-01 · Property Improvement Reserve	2,000	2,000	4,800
5110-00 · Accompanist	2,430	3,750	9,000
<b>Mission Support</b>			
5220-00 · Synod Missions			
5220-05 · NE MN Synod Support	3,050	3,386	8,127
5221-00 · Lutheran Social Services	226	251	602
5221-10 · Lutheran World Relief	678	753	1,806
5221-20 · Lutheran World Hunger	678	753	1,806
5221-30 · Pioneer's Missionary	481	502	1,204
5221-45 · Current for Curran	228	251	602
<b>Total 5220-00 · Synod Missions</b>	<b>5,341</b>	<b>5,895</b>	<b>14,147</b>
5223-00 · Luther Point Bible Camp	1,694	1,881	4,515
5224-00 · Local Missions			
7000-15 Children of Joy Preschool	452	502	1,204
5224-01 · A Place For You	678	753	1,806
5224-02 · Pine County Veteran's Council	678	753	1,806
5220-11 · Dragon Food Shelf	678	753	1,806
5224-15 · Pine City Food Shelf	678	753	1,806
5224-15 · Pregnancy Center	678	753	1,806
5224-25 Rainy Day Fund	1,350	1,376	3,303
5224-20 · Prison Ministry	112	125	301
<b>5224-00 · Local Missions</b>	<b>5,304</b>	<b>5,766</b>	<b>13,838</b>
5219-00 · Missions Support	12,339	13,542	32,500
5229-00 · Accounting Fees	6,380	6,458	15,500
5240-00 · Conference/Workshop	-	417	1,000
5240-50 · Healing Team Expenses	-	83	200
5241-00 · Special Event Expense	38	208	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,418</b>	<b>7,167</b>	<b>17,200</b>

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Budget Comparison  
February 28, 2021

	Actual	Budget	Budget
	YTD Feb '21	YTD 2021	Yr End 2021
<b>Insurance</b>			
5190-00 · Worker's Compensation Insurance	351	768	1,842
5248-00 · Property & Liability Insurance	3,146	2,770	6,649
<b>Total 5247-00 · Insurance</b>	<b>3,497</b>	<b>3,538</b>	<b>8,491</b>
5250-00 · Continuing Education-Support Staff	-	125	300
5273-00 · Adult Ministry	-	63	150
5224-06 · Life Blood Re-entry Meetings	-	42	100
5371-01 · Flowers Expense	-	-	-
5371-02 · Flower Reimbursement	-	-	-
<b>Total 5371-00 · Flower Expenditures</b>	<b>(89)</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Church Operating Expenses</b>			
5440-00 · Kitchen & Cleaning Supplies	180	1,042	2,500
<b>Office Expense</b>			
5410-01 · Print Supplies and Expense	429	979	2,350
5410-02 · Software Maintenance	399	375	900
5410-03 · Newsletter Publication	936	833	2,000
5450-00 · Office Expense - Other	1,299	833	2,000
<b>Total 5450-00 · Office Expense</b>	<b>3,063</b>	<b>3,021</b>	<b>7,250</b>
5450-10 Furniture and Equipment	61	83	200
5450-20 · Postage Expense	1,012	896	2,150
5600-00 · Repairs/Maintenance	1,654	2,083	5,000
5600-10 History/Archivist Expense	772	417	1,000
5600-12 · Environmental Arts	-	625	1,500
5724-00 · Grounds Maintenance	2,045	1,875	4,500
5730-00 · Church Automobile Expense	155	208	500
5750-00 · Utilities Expense	6,349	6,250	15,000
<b>Total 5410-00 · Church Operating Expenses</b>	<b>15,291</b>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>39,600</b>
5700-00 · Stewardship/Finance	-	63	150
5850-00 · Worship/Music Expense	1,910	1,842	4,420
5850-09 Altar Guild	64	417	1,000
5850-10 Sound Supervisor	600	625	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,574</b>	<b>2,883</b>	<b>6,920</b>
<b>Youth Expenses</b>			
5275-00 · Ministry with Children	650	1,323	3,175
5276-00 · Sunday School Exp.	180	625	1,500
5910-00 · Youth Budgeted Expenses	268	240	575
5920-00 · Youth Trips & Activities Exp.	-	-	-
4020-20 · Youth Fundraising-Restricted	-	-	-

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
 Budget Comparison  
 February 28, 2021

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>
	<b>YTD Feb '21</b>	<b>YTD 2021</b>	<b>Yr End 2021</b>
<b>5920-20 · Wilderness Camping Trips</b>		-	-
<b>5920-00 · Youth Trips &amp; Activities Exp. - Other</b>		438	1,050
<b>Total 5920-00 · Youth Trips &amp; Activities Exp.</b>	(1,463)	438	1,050
<b>5930-00 · Confirmation</b>	82	833	2,000
<b>5930-10 · Confirmation Camp Exp.</b>		-	-
<b>4020-35 · Confirmation Deposits</b>		-	-
<b>5930-10 · Confirmation Camp Exp. - Other</b>	-	833	2,000
<b>Total 5930-10 · Confirmation Camp Exp.</b>	-	833	2,000
<b>Total 5900-00 · Youth Exp.</b>	(283)	4,292	10,300
<b>Total Budgetary Expenses</b>	<b>111,538</b>	<b>136,892</b>	<b>328,540</b>



**OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND  
825 Golf Avenue SW, Pine City, Minnesota**

The initial investment to the Fund occurred on May 19, 2019 and currently is valued as follows:

Beginning Principal Balance	\$44,000
Additional Principal Investments	\$22,182
Change in Market Value to date	\$14,338
Current Fund Value 2/28/21	\$80,520

The Fund is managed and held with the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust-Fund A and utilizes the ELCA Fund's professional and outside investment services.

Historically, last spring the Endowment Fund was adversely affected by the Covid Pandemic and lost much of the change in market value gained since inception in May 2019. However, the Fund has rebounded nicely and currently shows a change in market value totaling \$14,338 to date.

The Endowment Distribution Policy requires an annual distribution of at least 4% of the account balance as of December 31 of the previous year. Based on that policy and calculation, an amount of \$3,200 will be made available for this year's grant cycle for qualified applicants. The Committee is happy to announce this and will be publishing the grant cycle guidelines. The distribution will come from the interest, dividends, and gains from the previous year. Watch for the announcement.

As we enter back "normal times", the Committee will also be discussing, with the assistance of the ELCA Endowment, plans for a Fund Raising Campaign to help grow the Endowment.

*Endowment Committee Members*

*Mary Jo Mettler*

*Penny Hudlow*

*Dan Blake*

*Steve Schmidt, Administrative*

**OUR REDEEMER EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH (ORELC)  
RAINY DAY FUND**

**825 Golf Avenue SW, Pine City, Minnesota**

**Rainy Day Fund**

*The ORELC congregation is a vital link to the Rainy Day Fund (RDF); we want to say thank you for your ongoing support and generous donations. And we want to inform you of the its financial record.*

*This information remains the same from last year's report: The RDF provides for on demand vouchers written by office personnel up to \$40 (gas and/or groceries). Any requests for; shut off notices, rent, car repairs, etc. are forwarded to the RDF committee for consideration. The RDF committee takes each request for assistance very seriously and please know each **request is confidential**. We all know there's a need in our community for assistance, however, financially the RDF was not prepared to assist with large requests, we did refer to other charitable organizations, however, some people fell through the cracks, waiting for a return call or not having the means to get to the organization if required.*

*Just a friendly reminder; there is criteria that must be met prior to each and every request for assistance to be funded. This ensures the future sustainability of the RDF.*

*The committee continues to work with in collaboration with the Salvation Army (SA). The SA had the funds to disseminate for Pine County (from Christmas Bell Ringers, etc.).*

*Please also ponder if Pine County designated SA funds are not disseminated in the calendar year, the remainder is returned to the central SA office in a general fund. Thus, a missed opportunity to extend community assistance.*

*Questions and/or concerns regarding the RDF may be directed to a RDF committee member or church accountant.*

**The period of October 1, 2020 thru February 28, 2021**

Mission Tithes	\$1,350.
Congregational donations	\$3,333.
<b>Total this period:</b>	<b>\$4,683.</b>

**Funds Disseminated**

Rent, electric, heating assistance	\$2,690.
Sprouts & Mini Mart Vouchers	\$1,154.
<b>Total this period:</b>	<b>\$3,844.</b>

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Current Fund Balance	\$6,094.
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*Respectfully submitted,  
Lyndon Hagestuen  
Penny Hudlow  
Mary Jo Mettler  
Pastor John Stiles*

*The food insecurity in our community is real, individuals and families fall behind in rent, heating and electric bills. Some requests are more than or do not fit the ORLC RDF mission and must be forwarded to i.e. Lakes & Pines and/or the Salvation Army for assistance.*

*Just this week the church office received a heartfelt thank you from a young woman leaving "A Place for You" and transitioning into to a home of her own.*

***The ORELC congregation can be very proud of the community assistance provided!***

## CYF SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT



This past year we navigated our way through the pandemic. We shifted our programs and ministries to online programs, at home programs, or family programs. Last summer we held campfires so we could gather in-person and introduce the kids to Pastor John. We held Family Vacation Bible School with the McAvoy's outside learning about the great things God is doing for us! Sunday School was able to start back up in-person and we added Sunday School on Zoom for those who couldn't make it in! Each month we deliver 33 Faith Bags to elementary aged families. These bags include crafts, a devotion, a prayer booklet, and more depending on the month and the theme. We are planning to continue faith bags through June and then take a break for the summer.

In October, 15 of our tenth graders affirmed their baptism at a service just for them. In November, our sixth graders received their first communion during worship. By the time you read this article 5 of our fifth graders will have also receive their first communion on Maundy Thursday.

This year we were able to start a High School Senior scholarship due to a generous donation from Norm Opheim. Scholarship will be given out on Senior Sunday and we are hoping to continue this scholarship for years to come.

Confirmation students have spent the year learning about our values, the Ten Commandments, how to deal with those around us and more. The program has shifted in several ways from meeting times, to online, to in-person and more. The kids, families, and mentors have gone with the flow and were always willing to adjust and I am thankful for that!

While this year has had its challenges there have also been blessings. It wasn't our normal year but we were still able to gather and connect in unique ways.

*Leigha Lange*



## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

25 March 2021

Since the last report we have added equipment to permanently live stream services. We had assistance from Andrew DeValle at WCMP to learn how to use it. Leigha prepares and produces the services for live streaming for our Parishioners at home. We will be trying out the FM transmitter in the near future so we can learn how that works. It has been a learning experience for us all and we have most of the issues identified and solved. Input from members at home has been a valuable service to us to provide this outreach. We are able to keep track of the number of viewers from home and we appear to be reaching a substantial number of people.

Worship has taken on a different look since the virus began. Everyone who has participated deserves a lot of thanks for bringing God's word to our community. Fellowship is an important part of worship and, along with the SMART team, we will continue to open up as the crisis abates.

We still have some needs for worship. We would like to have a pool of individuals that can operate the live stream and the sound equipment. Anyone interested may contact the Youth director, the office or Doug P.

Thanks also to Pastor John for joining us and sharing his substantial talents.

Worship will continue to be a single service for the time being.

Picnic church dates have been reserved at Robinson Park for Wednesdays this Summer. Planning meetings will begin in April.

Outdoor worship on Sundays was well attended and we have gotten a lot of feedback to continue to worship outdoors during the Summer even if we don't have to.

We would like to alter the outdoor worship arrangements on our campus. We are currently looking for a trailer or something we could use as a stage so we can make worship more comfortable.

*Submitted in Christ,*

*Doug P.*

## SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

### ENVIRONMENTAL ARTS & WORSHIP TEAM

10-1-2020 - 4-1-2021

There was no "in-person" Christmas Eve Services so the EV Arts Team organized a Christmas Gift Pack delivery to 300 members plus mailed out 50 packets. It was wonderful to have the Christmas Eve bulletin in hand to follow the service as families watched remotely or listened on the radio. The Sanctuary, Altar and Outside of the Church were decorated for the Christmas Season.

300 palms were delivered before Palm Sunday along with the Easter Sunday bulletin for those that were watching or listening to the service on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday. The sanctuary was decorated with an Easter Flower Garden.

All of the gift packs for Christmas and Easter were a collaboration between the EV Arts Team, Altar Guild, Worship & Music Committee, Healing Prayer Team and ORLC staff. A BIG THANK YOU to all the assembly pack volunteers and the 22 drivers that made all this happen!!!

In February of 2021 a new sliding oak door was installed to beautify the SE Entry and replace the damaged doors on the storage room. Most of the cost to buy the materials, install the door and finish the door has been generously donated from members. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

The EV ARTS Team collaborated with Property and Grounds to initiate the purchase of two new chair storage racks. It is our HOPE this will eliminate damage to the new sliding door, but, still be careful when you move the new chair racks. Another BIG thanks to the men who assembled the new racks and recycled the old ones.

Future projects include repairs, paint and reorganizing the Storage Room. The Youth Room needs new flooring. There is also some concerns about the carpet in the Fellowship Hall area.

Thank you for all your prayers and support as we continue to work to make our church a welcoming and comfortable environment to all who enter for fellowship, worship and learning.

*THE EVARTS & WORSHIP TEAM*

*Jenny Christensen/Sue Osterdyk - CoChairs*

*Linda Haug, Merrilee Eberhart, Ilene Haavisto, Melanie Knutson, Kim Haug, Deb Eck*

## 2021 HEALING PRAYER TEAM SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Mission: Helping others experience God's power through praying and teaching.

Activities sponsored by the HPT:

December:

- Advent Daily Message – TRIP into the light
- Anointed prayer ribbons in the Christmas delivery packet
- Provided worship and prayer with communion as requested at home

January:

- Healing service – Keep me aware of Jesus, using the prayer cross for requests

February:

- Lenten Daily Message – prayer for children and youth using “31 Biblical Virtues to pray for your kids” by Bob Hostetler

March:

- Praying for youth at the cross after Holden Prayer services
- Provide directions for weaving a cross from palm fronds

On going ministry offered to any and all upon request:

- Written prayer requests gathered from the prayer cross monthly.
- Texting prayer chain – any may text 651-236-0511 with an immediate prayer request. This will be passed on to several others who will immediately offer a petition regarding this need upon receipt.
- Altar ministry – on hiatus during Covid closure.
- Soaking prayer sessions – upon request individuals (general facing life altering circumstances) may participate in an extended prayer sessions with 3 or more Prayer Team members. The person will talk about the situation and the team will pray with the individual. The goal is to know “Emmanuel, God with us” meaning how will Christ join with the individual to face the life circumstance in the Power of God. There may be repeated prayer sessions as needed.
- Nursing Home, Hospital, Hospice, Home visits limited by Covid.
- Intentional prayer for ORLC – Wednesdays in the fellowship hall to pray for the spiritual growth at ORLC. Any are welcome to join these prayer sessions to petition “Our Father in Heaven” for the positive move of the congregation toward “thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” The day for this may change once the church is fully opened, watch for notice in the weekly bulletin.
- Book Study, Dangerous Prayers by Craig Groeschel based on Psalm 139: 23-24, ‘Search Me’, ‘Break Me’, ‘Send Me.’

*Submitted by*

*Lois Bengtson and Lynn Walz and other team members*



Heritage Committee  
Semi-Annual Report  
October 2020 - March 2021

Members include: Ella Caroon, Marilyn Caza, Barbara Christensen, Ilene Haavisto, Jennifer Krinke, Diane Teich, and Kris Gross (Council Liaison)

Below are tasks members have undertaken in this six month period.

- Acquired additional confirmation photos via articles in our Church Newsletter and scanning Bob Thiry's photos on the Pine City Historical Society's website.
- Continued to file archival information.
- Received sample anniversary booklets from Paul Daniels, ELCA Synod Archivist. They include the Lutheran Church of Dell Rapids, Norman Lutheran Church, Augustana Lutheran Church and Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Copies were made of pages for our review when compiling our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet. A thank you letter was sent to Mr. Daniels along with a copy of our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Brochure.
- Sent out questionnaires with a cover letter to gather information about ORLC's many activities and community outreach programs for inclusion in our Church Newsletter and our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet.
- Made a list of possible activities to include in our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Proposed date is October, 2021.
- Worked on the Heritage Room, including historical photos/pictures and other items. A cabinet is being constructed for housing historical items and preservation materials.
- As requested, sent copies of Pine Grove, Milburn and early Our Redeemer Churches' histories to the family of Mrs. Rudolf Sward. Mrs. Sward's handwritten histories were in the original ORLC cornerstone. If anyone knows what other items were in the original cornerstone or in our current cornerstone, please let us know.
- Talked with two people who responded to our *PC Pioneer* article asking if anyone had information on Pine Grove or Milburn Churches. Little continues to be known of the Milburn Church.

Due to Covid safety precautions, meetings and progress have been limited. We will begin meeting again in April. Our main goals will be to plan and conduct a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service in October and assemble an Anniversary Booklet. Other goals will be to add to the Heritage Room, write articles for ORLC's monthly newsletter, continue researching archival information, and develop/use approved policies and procedures and preservation methods and materials to preserve our Church history.

If you have memories to share, if you are interested in helping with any part of a project, have photos or other items to share and/or donate, please contact a Committee member. All help is welcomed.

Prepared by: Barbara Christensen  
Committee Chair



# Pine City BackPack Food Program

*Feed a child; grow a community*

320-629-4122 [djackson@isd578.org](mailto:djackson@isd578.org)

April 2021

This is the SEVENTH year that the BackPack Food Program has been providing food to Pine City students who don't have enough food to eat over the weekend. From September 2020 through March 2021, a total of 493 food bags were delivered: 237 to the elementary, 50 to the high school, and 206 to Vision. Along with the food, a positive note was included in each bag. These notes were written by many Pine City teachers and staff encouraging students to spread kindness, work hard, and follow their dreams. Here is an example of one of those notes: "I want you to know that I believe in you. You make the world a better place by being thoughtful and considerate of others. Keep spreading kindness. It is contagious! Dream big and go after that dream! I'm cheering for you!"

Even though the number of food bags delivered this year is less than the number delivered last year, we are continuing to reach students who have the greatest need. Also, cash donations and food donations remain stable. As a result, the state of the BackPack Food Program is financially STRONG. In fact, because of the support from Our Redeemer members as well as the Catholic church and various Pine City businesses and organizations, we were able to send extra food home during extended time off at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and spring break.

THANK YOU to everyone who made this program year possible. Whether you volunteered your time to fill bags, collect food items, deliver food, or pray for the program, your support is greatly appreciated. We are living up to our mission to feed a child and grow a community!

*Bonnie Sparling*

## Children of Joy Preschool



Thank you for your continued support of our preschool. We are abundantly blessed with Casey Tyberg as our Lead Teacher and Rosalie Aschemann as co-teacher as well as Carolyn Tuckner continuing to volunteer as our director. They are doing amazing work to continue to support our students and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been able to be open this school year with limited numbers as well as deep cleaning/disinfecting every single day as part of necessary safety precautions.

Mrs. Casey needed to be quarantined somewhat early in the school year. Mrs. Rosalie stepped up in an amazing way and kept everything running smoothly. Not a small feat since we have also been blessed with a younger student group this year of primarily 3 year olds. Having access to such a wonderful play area in the back yard helps growing bodies move as they are made to do.

Besides tuition and continuing donations from ORLC, we qualified for a PPP loan and several MN DHS grants which covered classroom expenses and payroll. The only fundraiser we could do under pandemic conditions just ended with Butterbraid sales. Thank you for your support!

Our strong curriculum includes learning both indoors and outside. Topics of study have included: simple machines, signs, sand (oceans, deserts, animals), insects, I Love to Read, Winter Wonderland—for example, how do you build a snowman and what might make it melt? Students also celebrated the 100th day of school in March. (lots of counting!)

We are planning on three Summer Camp sessions. This is designed to give children a sample of preschool while older siblings are busy with summer rec. It is for any child who is potty trained through entering Kindergarten.

**If you are interested for your child or grandchild—please contact Casey.**

**Dates for camp will be: June 14-16, July 12-14, August 16-18 from 8-11 a.m. each day**



**N** We are also looking into continuing the preschool into this summer. Some parents have requested  
**E** this. If there is enough interest, we will go into summer. If you know of someone who may be  
**W** interested, they need to contact us ASAP.

Our board usually meets monthly while staying in contact between meetings as needed. As things begin to open back up, we will watch for community events to participate in. Thank you to everyone who have been ongoing supporters. With your support, we have been able to build a scholarship fund which has assisted families going through tough times. Active board members include: Carolyn Tuckner, Pat Teich, Steve Hallan, Kris Clementson, Lisa Johnson, and Ashley Espeseth.

Please pray for our students, their families, our staff and board. A challenge we face is a lack of substitute teachers in case one of our teachers cannot work. We are in need of a pool of names who could sub.

Pass the word about our preschool to your friends and neighbors. We have open houses by appointment and are currently signing up students for next year. Share a hobby or interest in our classroom. Continue to support our fundraisers. Thank you for walking with us as we serve our community!

Patty Keyport  
Children of Joy Board Member  
CoJ: 320-629-2985 or [orlckidz@gmail.com](mailto:orlckidz@gmail.com)  
Facebook @ CreatingJoyInLearning

*Creating Joy in Learning*