



ANNUAL REPORT

— 2020 —



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

Dear friends in Christ,

This year has been a challenging one! The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the church and society. We have had to shift the ways we engage in ministry from a focus on in-person worship and meetings to livestream worship, virtual meetings and gatherings in the parking lot. We have had to shift to teaching children at home and working from home. We have not been able to travel to see friends or relatives or to celebrate life events. This has also been a time to address economic and social justice issues, to shift our thinking and our way of life.

In times such as this, our baptism in Christ makes a difference and makes us different. Like Christians before us, we recall that God is faithful to God's promises and God's people. We see that God enables us to connect with one another even when we are separated. Shifts in the world invite us to be innovative in how we do God's work and reach out to all ages in making disciples. We see that God is at work not only in our buildings but beyond them as well. We have found new ways to serve our neighbors and reach those in need.

As we experience this time of uncertainty, we sense something new emerging. In many places there are new strategies and renewed energy for ministry, often generated by emerging leaders. We have developed a framework to build on, and now is the time to engage in hard work together. As you do in your congregation, we want our collaborative efforts to be both faithfully thoughtful and sustainable. We want to build up the body of Christ today and for the future.

Looking across the church, I am grateful for your generous giving of time, talents and resources. Yes, God does continue to bless us! God will provide both relief from life's struggles and hope for a stronger church, God's church. We do not need to know how the future will unfold. As members in the body of Christ, we need only trust that God is with us and will provide.

Building up the body of Christ together,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." —Ephesians 4:11-16

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church and School
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ANNUAL REPORT

2020

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 31, 2021
10:30 a.m.

2020 Staff

Brian Hiortdahl	Pastor
Mark Weiser	Director of Music/Organist
Claudia Zavala Lanz	Preschool Director
Season Eng	Assistant Preschool Director
Jan Garris	Director of Finance and Administration
Wendy Torres	Financial Office Manager
Han Lee	Marketing Director
Jessica Ramirez-Shea	Office/Financial Assistant
Wendy Bensimon (thru March)	Financial Assistant
Danielle Fairlee	COVID-19 Coordinator
Tommy Primeau/Tracy Kay	Maintenance

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Agenda

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 31, 2021

Opening of Meeting	Gary Golnick
Devotions	Lisa Lambert
Reports	
2020 Minutes	Gary Golnick
Pastor	Brian Hiortdahl
President	Gary Golnick
Financial	Gina Hagen
Audit	Ruth Ause
School Board	James Helgager
Congregational Council Election	Gary Golnick
2021 Church Budget	Gina Hagen
New Business	Gary Golnick/Chip Lee
Election of Nominating Committee for 2022 Council	
Election of 2021 Audit Committee	
Constitution Changes	
Other New Business	
Recess for Shepherd of the Valley Foundation Meeting	Gary Golnick
Shepherd of the Valley Foundation	Dave Engh
Reconvene	Gary Golnick
Closing Remarks	Gary Golnick
Closing Prayer	Pastor Brian Hiortdahl

Minutes for Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 2020

President Gary Golnick called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m.

We have a quorum.

Lisa Lambert led us in devotions and song.

In attendance: 72 (3 more entered after original count, 5 left prior to the end of the meeting)

Motion to approve the 2019 annual meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as presented.

Pastor's Report

We did a lot this year! Pastor thanked the congregation for welcoming him, for their generosity and for our ministry together.

President's Report - Gary Golnick

This has been an exciting year. We did amazing things, showed a lot of generosity in finances and service.

Treasurer's Report - Gina Hagen

Total church income this year was \$637,169; This has been a foundational year for us to move forward and continue our mission here at SOV.

Motion to approve the financials. Financials were approved as presented.

Auditor's Report - Ruth Ause

Audit Committee found that the financials were in good standing. Thank you to Jan Lee and Jan Garris and her staff for their contributions to the audit.

Preschool Report - Sandi Engh

The school had a phenomenal year. Sandi thanked church members who contributed financially and volunteered time to the preschool.

Erin Studer - Council Elections - Nominating Committee

There were no nominations from the floor. Motion to close nominations and present them as a slate. Approved. Voted on as a slate on the top half of the ballot.

Church Council slate was unanimously approved at 68 votes.

Church Budget - Gina Hagen - 2020 budget

Income is 9% over actual for 2019. That increase will support all the programs we have in place, as well as salary increases that we have for our staff.

We experienced a shortfall in 2019. An explanation is provided on the Treasurer's Report. Motion to approve 2020 budget as presented. Motion was approved.

Gary clarified that we needed another motion to approve the special congregation meeting minutes. Earlier we only approved the regular minutes. Motion carried to approve special meeting minutes as presented.

2020 Nominating Committee for 2021 Church Council

There were no nominations from the floor. There was a motion to close nominations. Motion approved. There was a motion to vote on the Nominating Committee as a slate. Slate was approved.

Audit Committee – Ruth Ause & Jan Lee

There was a motion to close additional nominations from the floor. Approved. There was a motion for Dave Engh to join the 2020 Audit Committee. Motion was approved.

New Business

Constitution – Chip Lee - Lisa Lambert distributed copies to congregation. Chip received feedback from the Synod on our proposed Constitution. One bylaw did not meet the Synod guidelines C12.04.04. We need a motion to remove C12.04.04. We need a 2/3 majority vote to do this. We voted by a show of hands. More than 2/3 in favor. Opposed: 0

There was a motion to approve the proposed Constitution and the bylaws with the change from the last motion. We voted by a show of hands. More than 2/3 voted in favor. No opposition. This motion was approved.

There is a motion on the floor brought forth by the Church Council to adopt the new welcoming statement. Gary read the proposed welcoming statement to the congregation. There was a second. The vote was on the 2nd of the three-section ballot to be torn off and submitted to the tellers. 67 votes in favor of the proposed welcoming statement, 3 abstentions and 2 votes in opposition.

There is a motion on the floor to be brought forth by the Church Council if we adopted the new welcoming statement. We will now vote on becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Gary asked for questions from the floor. Bruce Boord, Marsha Eubanks, Marie Brauer and Robby Lambert spoke to the congregation.

Pastor Brian led us in prayer prior to the vote.

This vote will need a 2/3 majority. The vote to make SOV a Reconciling in Christ Congregation was as follows:

In favor: 69 Opposed: 3 Abstained: 3

Motion is carried.

There was a motion to recess our Annual meeting in order for the Foundation to have their annual meeting.

Annual Meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m. for the SOV Foundation meeting.

Annual Meeting reconvened at 11:55 a.m. after SOV Foundation meeting.

Gary Golnick recognized the incredible job that Sandi Engh has done as Preschool Board Chairperson on Church Council. She has been a part of the preschool's amazing growth. He thanked her for her service. She will continue to serve SOV on the LRCC board.

Gary shared heartfelt thanks to Church Council and Pastor Brian for the work that has been done here at SOV this year. He shared quotes from the message at the front of the annual report that guide us in our mission.

Pastor Brian led us in closing prayer.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved.

Annual Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Caryl Benner
Church Council Secretary

-REPORTS-

Pastor

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God ... For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:18-19, 24-28)

2020 marked the 60th anniversary of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church and one of the most unusual years in its history. Pastor Bryan Woken helped us commemorate the milestone, preaching and joining a special coffee time the first Sunday in December—online from Bakersfield. It was the most smiling I had seen in our community in several months.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to close the campus and suspend in-person worship, Preschool, Christian education, and the usual rounds of meetings and community gatherings beginning in mid-March. Preschool resumed with abundant restrictions and new protocols midsummer, at which time we also gathered on the lawn once a month for midweek prayer services. Many people did a LOT of work to make these modified re-openings possible. We head into 2021 battling a second, more devastating wave of cases which caused us to tighten protocols and change Christmas Eve worship from an outdoor gathering to a video. My thanks to the council and staff who have prayerfully, thoughtfully, carefully made so many difficult decisions in no-win situations to help us navigate these unusual and challenging times.

The list of pivots (each with its gifts and limitations) is long: video worship, confirmation classes and VBS and social gatherings on Zoom, Sunday School lessons sent home, virtual meetings, online studies, additional cleaning, social distancing, drop-off food and toy drives, more cleaning, changing guidelines and protocols (and a new staff position dedicated to staying current, capably filled by Danielle Fairlee), suspension of community group gatherings, staff turnover, budgetary adjustments, and more. Through it all the congregation has been remarkably understanding, generous, supportive, and flexible. I cannot thank everyone sufficiently, but I must thank council and Stephen Ministers for their dedication to making calls and maintaining caring connections (which are especially critical in these fraught times); Craig Burns and Jackson Barth for faithfully recording and uploading worship; Mutual Ministry for keeping the pastor close to sane; SOV staff for so many unseen sacrifices and contributions; and all those in the congregation who continue to lift prayers and give offerings without being passed a plate. Our community has pulled together, not perfectly of course, but beautifully.

Occasional feedback I've received from around the country (New York, Iowa, Oregon, Ohio, Florida, and Fresno come immediately to mind) is a regular reminder that worship online exponentially expands our reach into the wider world. In addition to words and songs, we provided blankets, toys, food, hours of service, and over 4,040 socks (more than double our goal of 2,020) for various neighbors in need. We are now a charter member of the Twin Valleys Lutheran Parish (TVLP), a collaborative effort throughout our conference to address Latinx ministry, homelessness and poverty, youth and young adult discipling, and congregational sustainability. I have served on the TVLP board since being elected in January and SOV is providing fiscal agency to get the parish up and running. I have also continued to make periodic contributions to the ELCA's Faith Lens Bible study blog and Living Lutheran magazine when invited.

Pastoral acts were minimized and altered by the restrictions on gathering. I performed one baptism, two confirmations, three house blessings, and six small, socially distanced funerals, with several other pastoral acts pending.

I cling to the faith that Paul expresses so eloquently to the Romans that all things are in God's hands, being mixed together into a recipe for good. This year, the kitchen is a mess and the ingredients smell funny, so I am more mystified than usual, but also more encouraged. We are learning lessons of reliance and patience and creativity and love. We are receiving blessings that would not be available without stopping the world as we knew it. We are slogging through a graduate level course in living in hope. And God is with us, leading us (somewhere), assisting with and attentive to our prayers, including this favorite that has rarely felt more timely:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (ELW p. 317)

Thank you for the privilege of being your pastor and making this strange, holy journey with you.

Together in Christ,
Pastor Brian Hiortdahl

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

2020 Council

Congregation Officers—Executive Committee

President..... Gary Golnick	Secretary..... Caryl Benner
Vice President.....Chip Lee	Treasurer..... Gina Hagen

Board Chairpersons

Deacons..... Lisa Lambert	Stewardship..... Marie Brauer
Preschool..... James Helgager	Parish Education..... Kjrste Hillig
Parish Life..... Bruce Boord/Danielle Fairlee	Mission Outreach..... Marsha Eubanks
Trustees..... Craig Burns/Dave Engh	

2020 Parish Report

368 Baptized Membership at end of 2019

1 Baptized Member received during 2020

- 1 Child
- 0 Adult
- 0 Affirmation of faith

15 Baptized Members removed during 2020

- 8 by death
- 4 by transfer
- 2 removed no transfer
- 1 statistical adjustment

354 Baptized Membership at end of 2020

- 274 Total Confirmed Membership at end of 2020

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

Total attendance as reported here is an average of all Sundays in each year, except for Easter. Average attendance for each year was:

2020— 94 (in-person worship before the pandemic)

2020— 99*

2019— 91

2018— 90

2017—103

ATTENDANCE FOR SPECIAL SERVICES	2020	2019	2018	2017
Ash Wednesday	23	25	50	67
Maundy Thursday	262*	49	49	34
Good Friday	196*	88	58	78
Easter Vigil	-	37	-	-
Easter	299*	329	262	320
Christmas Eve	112*	197	156	171
Christmas Day	41*	29	29	33

***Facebook analytics based on at least a 3 sec view**

2020 Pastoral Acts

Child Baptisms

James Herrington VIII

New Members

James Herrington VIII

Funerals/Memorials

James Gemmell

Barbara Pratt

Winnie Becker

Thelma Luke

Phil Ause

Beryl Kish

Members Removed by Death

Joanne Hudson

Arlene Fajnor

Barbara Pratt

Cecilia Tirre

Winnie Becker

Thelma Luke

Phil Ause

Ruth Christiansen

Members Removed by Transfer

Fred and Pam Vogt

Bruce and Bonnie Boord

Members Removed by Death—Statistical Adjustment

Harold Gillman (died in 2019, notified in 2020)

Members Removed—No Transfer

Randi Boord

Dorothy Gillman

Confirmed

Luke Helgager

Brendan Hillig

President

This has been a year that none of us will soon forget, yet in spite of the unrelenting pandemic, Shepherd of the Valley has shown a resiliency and generosity that has allowed us to continue to witness to those in our community and to spread God's message of love and faith.

To begin the year, SOV took an incredibly important step in the life of our congregation and overwhelmingly voted to become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. This purposeful step sends a clear and powerful message that We Welcome Everyone!

Thanks to the strong leadership and extraordinary commitment of Pastor Brian, our Church and Preschool staff and countless volunteers, SOV has been able to continue the critical mission of our church and to provide our Preschool children with the invaluable gift of social interaction. This has included weekly online worship services, outdoor services, virtual coffee hours, virtual Parish Life events, communion delivery, prayer services, bible studies and so much more.

Our membership and collaboration with the Twin Valleys Lutheran Parish (TVLP) has further strengthened our commitment to help those less fortunate in our community. We collected thousands of pairs of socks for the homeless and our food drives helped feed thousands of families.

SOV celebrated its 60th birthday on December 8 and to mark the occasion, we welcomed our former Pastor, Bryan Woken, to lead us in service on December 6th. He then joined us for a special coffee hour following the service, which included sharing SOV history, memories and stories.

My sincere thanks to the congregation for your patience and understanding as the council faced many challenging decisions related to the pandemic. Each decision was made with prayerful and thoughtful deliberation and out of an abundance of caution to help keep our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ safe. Through it all, you've shown incredible generosity that has sustained us and allows us to continue our faithful journey with a renewed spirit.

Shepherd of the Valley holds a special place in my heart and I thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving on council these last four years. I've been blessed to work with an incredibly talented, caring and passionate pastor and the best council that anyone could hope for. I sincerely appreciate each one of them for their special talents and commitment and I'm excited to see what the future holds for this amazing congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Golnick
Council President

Vice-President

Constitution Ratification

At the 2020 Annual Meeting, the Constitution was amended to bring it into conformity with the ELCA churchwide constitution for congregations. These constitutional changes must be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

The Constitution is an addendum to this annual report and is available online at sovlc.org or you may request a physical copy by contacting the office.

Respectfully submitted,
Chip Lee
Congregation Vice-President

Board of Trustees

Major components of the Shepherd of Tomorrow plan have been put in place, primarily the installation of solar panels on the roof of the school buildings. This has resulted in an approximately 40% reduction in electrical costs. A major water leak has been repaired. We expect a reduction in ongoing utility costs and are seeking rebate of previously-paid excess water costs.

Many thanks to Tommy Primeau, our day-to-day maintenance person, for his work to keep our facilities in good working order.

In the coming year we will continue our efforts to reduce our campus' utilities usage and continue catching up on needed maintenance activities. We look forward to the opportunities to serve the congregation in these areas.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Engh
Board of Trustees

Deacons

Last year began like most others...we welcomed in the new year, worshipped together and continued with Name Tag Sundays the first Sunday of the month. Worship attendance was increasing and our preschool was filled to the max with a waiting list, there was excitement and momentum....and then Friday March 13th arrived, and with it a whole new way of thinking about church, and what it means to be a church family, and an example of light for the world.

As I reflect on last year, the word that comes to mind is *care*. I can see many times where the Deacons Committee along with our entire church focused on caring during this difficult and challenging time.

Thank you to the following people who served on the Deacons Committee. They coordinated schedules, attended zoom committee meetings and shared thoughtful and honest insight and opinions as we grappled with decisions during this most unusual year:

Karen Helgager—Prayer Chain Coordinator

Marcia Smart—Lector and Communion Assistant Coordinator for weekly worship

Marsha Eubanks—Altar Guild Coordinator (until September)

Kjrste Hillig—Altar Guild Coordinator (October - December)

Barbara Kaye—Extended Communion Coordinator

James Helgager—Usher Coordinator

Marsha Eubanks and Barbara Kaye—Memorial Services Coordinators

On April 9, we distributed worship bags containing instructions and items to go along with online services posted for Holy Week, including Communion for Maundy Thursday. This evolved into worship bags including communion, delivered on the first Sunday of each month. We received \$250 from the Thrivent Action Program to defray the cost of communion and special inserts for worship bags during the holiday season. Over 200 hours were spent making these deliveries -- thank you to all who volunteered their time (and gas!) to bring communion to our entire congregation, and thank you to Wendy Torres and Jessica Shea in the office, for planning the delivery routes and filling the bags.

We held an at-home Prayer Vigil on the National Day of Prayer (May 7). Twenty volunteers prayed for over 11 hours with special intention for all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as prayer requests submitted and those on our weekly prayer list.

Prayer Resources were created for the Prayer Vigil and are currently available on our website. They can be accessed as follows:

Go to www.sovlc.org. At the top middle of the page, click on Video Gallery. There is a four minute meditation video, as well as Bible verses about prayer, sample prayers, and prayers for daily use.

As for Sunday worship, SOV had to get creative with providing the pieces of worship that we have been used to for the last 2,000 years – gathering, word, meal, sending. A special thank you to Pastor Brian for his enthusiasm and ingenuity in shepherding us in new ways to worship, and living out the gospel in this uncharted terrain.

During the warm months we held several outdoor worship services, following guidance laid out by government agencies. Thank you to Danielle Fairlee for ensuring compliance at these services. Thank you to Mark Weiser for providing music for our weekly services, as well as coordinating musicians and singers for weekly and outdoor services. Thank you to all the singers and musicians who volunteered their time and shared their gifts over this last year.

One of the biggest challenges that had to be implemented immediately was the ability to offer online worship services. A special thank you to Craig Burns and Jackson Barth for their commitment to recording the services, and to Han Lee in the office for ensuring they were properly formatted and posted at the proper time and in the proper places.

As we ended 2020 we found one final way to care...Church Council decided to cancel the outdoor worship planned for Christmas Eve, to help our members and friends stay as safe as possible.

As we enter 2021 we continue to care for one another, our community, and our world. Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church cannot help but care; it is in our DNA, as we choose to “bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2).

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa V. Lambert
Deacon Chairperson

Parish Life

As we embarked on 2020, blissfully unaware of the pandemic to come, the Parish Life committee organized several blanket making fellowship events in coordination with the Mission Outreach team. In February, a festive Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was held in Founders Hall, bringing together many SOV members for a delicious meal in the colorfully-decorated room.

By March, when the COVID-19 pandemic entered our lives, Parish Life soon became Virtual Parish Life. As we all scrambled to learn the features of Zoom, the Church staff and the Parish life team looked to this new technology for creative ways to keep our congregation connected. By Easter, members and friends were invited to take part in a virtual Easter Brunch on Zoom.

Zoom became our vehicle for virtual Coffee Hours after our Sunday online services. “Regulars” began looking forward to this weekly event as a way to check in with church friends and hear about their lives.

Starting in May, creativity and safety took center stage as SOV members staged festive car parades to celebrate member Sharon Van Velzer’s birthday and later to wish “bon voyage” to member Marsha Eubanks on her move to Texas. These car parades were a fun way to celebrate our church friendships from the safety of our vehicles, while bringing some joy to members (and their neighbors).

In August, we held our first Virtual Bingo night, with Brian Fairlee emceeing a lively game. It was so fun we did it again in October, with a Spooky Bingo night. For the Halloween event, we did a special game just for the preschool, and then Bingo for church members and friends. Kudos to all those who came in costume for this fun event.

For November, we launched “Thankful Thursdays” — a series of virtual events and activities centered on gratitude for cookies, music and friends. We appreciate Pastor Hiortdahl’s mom, Linda, for sharing her family chocolate chip cookie recipe with everyone. Please also check our website for links to the SOV member-submitted music playlists we created. You’ll want to play them year-round!

And in December, we held “Merry Mondays” events, including a virtual movie night and a Zoom-based hot cocoa party at which our confirmation students helped read the Christmas story from Luke. We closed out the series with a Zoom party featuring festive beverages and Christmas sweaters, thankful for our SOV family and the technology that keeps us together during this difficult time.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Fairlee
Parish Life Chairperson

Mutual Ministry

The Mutual Ministry Committee, formed in 2019, has met quarterly, and our next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2021. Its purpose is to be a completely confidential liaison between any member of the congregation and Pastor Hiortdahl. Mutual Ministry members reflect together on sensitive matters as well as the overall health of our congregation's ministry. Current members of the group are Pastor Hiortdahl, Marie Brauer, Danielle Fairlee, Stephanie MacLeod, and Erin Studer.

Each committee member is respectfully available as a listening ear about any matter of concern, question, or suggestion, which is then discreetly and prayerfully considered by Pastor and Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie MacLeod
Mutual Ministry Chairperson

Parish Education

Parish Education includes Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, and Bible study groups. Stephen Ministry has also invited the congregation to attend several presentations with guest speakers. When church meets in person, Sunday School is dismissed from church after the children's message. Through March (until the pandemic hit), Sunday School was led by a team of 7 volunteer teachers each taking several Sundays. The variety of teacher experience and differing teaching styles greatly benefited the students. The curriculum follows the Spark Sunday School program, using the curriculum that follows the lectionary. The children return to the church for Communion with their families. After SOV went to an all-online worship format, the Sunday School materials were ordered for each session and sent to the homes of the children who would have been participating. Their parents then provide the materials to their children as they watch the streaming service.

Vacation Bible School was held online in July 2020 in partnership with St. Luke's Lutheran in Woodland Hills. The theme was "Families are Fabulous." As children and parents have all been at home, together, the goal was to appeal to a multi-generational audience. Children and adults could participate together, with a mix of live Zoom and pre-recorded activities. Activity supplies were provided by the church for the crafts. Marsha Eubanks filmed a video on how to tie blankets to be provided to children in foster care. Kjrste and Johanna Hillig recorded the songs for the week that were played during the VBS hour. Season Eng designed demonstrated crafts for both pre-school and older children that supported the lessons. Pastor Brian and Pastor Janet of St. Luke's led the in person Zoom sessions. There was limited attendance, as one might expect after a LOT of education being held virtually. However, the group learned a lot, and will be ready to go if we need to do VBS virtually again next year.

SOV had two confirmands complete their classes and be confirmed in 2020 – Brendan Hillig and Luke Helgager. They were confirmed at an outdoor service held at SOV. It was a combined service with several other Twin Valleys Conference congregations participating. Confirmation class continues this year and has seven regular attendees, 3 in their second year, 4 in their first year. The students meet twice a month via Zoom with youth from other Lutheran churches in the Twin Valleys Conference. The pastors take turns leading sessions. It has been a challenge for all figuring out how to learn and grow in the Lord via Zoom, but all of the students and pastors are doing a great job working through it all.

Pastor Brian has led several Bible study classes, again via Zoom, this year. They have included "Hope when Hell Breaks Loose: The Book of Revelation," a study of "The Book of Joy," and monthly "Bible Time with Pastor." There are so many ways and places to learn and grow in the study of God's Word at SOV!

Respectfully submitted,
Kjrste Hillig
Parish Education Chairperson

Stephen Ministry

Every year typically has a few defining moments, but this year has been world-changing like no other. As the COVID-19 pandemic raged out of control, the needs for care have continued to grow. People from all walks of life are struggling with a variety of challenges --- grief, health concerns, isolation, financial strain, anxiety and more. Our congregation has been fortunate to have a well-established Stephen Ministry Christ-centered care program in place to meet these growing needs. Even when our Stephen Ministers cannot meet their care receivers in person, we are adapting the ministry by meeting by phone or video chat and continuing to offer quality care.

We have also adapted new ways to offer continuing education to our Stephen Ministers which is a vital component of this ministry. We started the year off with Pastor Marsha Harris as our guest speaker who spoke to us about Ministry with God's Homeless Children. Next, Pastor Brian facilitated an exploration of Scripture, culture, personal assumptions, and the joys and challenges of God's gift and calling of human diversity. This exploration was called One Body Many Members. This 6-week series began with in-person meetings, then was interrupted by the shutdown.

As the year progressed our continuing education time was all done via Zoom studying various inspirational videos that expanded and enhanced our Stephen Ministry skills. The first was a video with Bob Goff who is a Christian author and speaker who showed ways to see God's love through life's lessons. We watched a TED Talk with Dewitt Jones who is a stunning photographer. He showed us how to find beauty and to see what is right with the world through the lens of his camera.

The care-giving relationships we form with those in need continues to be confidential, which is a fundamental component of Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are available to meet (via phone, email, and/or Zoom). During this time together we pray, listen, support, and share the love of Christ with our Care Receivers.

A special thanks to our 2020 Stephen Ministers:

Marie Brauer, Jennifer Farrell, Marlene Filsinger, Laurie Golnick, Carol Guillebeaux, Kathy Gulrud, Jan Lee, Karen Lesino-Smith, and Judy Vanderbok. The Stephen Leader Team listed below (with the exception of Pastor) also serve as Stephen Ministers when necessary.

If you wish to learn more about this ministry, please give us a call.

Your Stephen Ministers and Leaders continue to prayerfully and compassionately serve and care for our congregation and community.

Respectfully submitted,

Julee Rich, Bob Lambert, Chip Lee, Jan Garriss and Pastor Brian Hiortdahl
Stephen Ministry Leaders

Mission Outreach

Giving and Serving Our Community

In community for the community

Under the capable leadership of Marsha Eubanks, the Mission Outreach team was very active in 2020. Our efforts included a very successful event to assemble hygiene bags for the homeless in Founders Hall in February. Hundreds of bags containing water, food and even Valentine's messages were assembled by our members. Marsha also organized a collection of gift cards/donations to support CLU's ministry to college students who are experiencing food insecurity.

As the pandemic began, the Mission Outreach Team remained committed to its work, even after stay-at-home orders were issued. We continued our drive to collect 2,020 socks for the homeless, and far exceeded that goal following a giant donation of Bombas socks. The majority of the socks were delivered to Central Lutheran.

Food collection took center stage during the pandemic, especially because local food banks reported drastic increases in people seeking food donations. SOV held monthly "Second Saturday" food collection events to benefit the food pantries at Central Lutheran Church, Van Nuys, Church of Hope, Canyon Country and Lutheran Social Services. A special Thanksgiving food drive for Lutheran Social Services, was also held and supported by our preschool families. Second Saturday food collection events will continue. Volunteers are needed to help with these monthly events, both to collect donations and to drive food to Central Lutheran in Van Nuys.

SOV also held a Christmas Toy Drive for Lutheran Social Service (LSS), which was supported by our preschool families. Between the church and the preschool, hundreds of new toys for children were distributed at Christmas time, thanks to our efforts.

The Reconciling In Christ (RIC) team did not meet in 2020 due to the pandemic. It looks forward to reorganizing in 2021.

With Marsha's move to Plano, Texas, we have her very big shoes to fill. For anyone who feels called to help lead SOV's community-based projects like these, or if you would like to volunteer for an individual event, please contact the church office.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Fairlee/Gina Hagen
Mission Outreach Team

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Preschool

It has been a difficult and exceptional year that has really tested our resolve, but by the grace of God we've been able to step up and prove that with God's will, we will find a way. The school year for 2019-2020 started out with such promise. We had five full classrooms and a student waiting list, along with a full staff of amazing teachers and support staff. Then the shutdown was ordered and the school had to temporarily close its doors. But due to fantastic management led by Jan Garriss and Gina Hagen we were able to keep a core part of the staff on board and utilize the governments Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to reimburse us for qualified expenses and to minimize our losses. The PPP loan was fully forgiven by the SBA and covered \$77,350 of preschool salaries that are reflected in the church financial statements.

Once we were allowed to re-open the school many of the students did not return, which is understandable because of all the uncertainty at the time. However, because of our incredible staff and COVID-19 response team headed by Danielle Fairlee, we were able to make the school safe, so that parents felt comfortable with the idea of re-joining our school program. We were able to open three 3 classrooms, but due to COVID-19 guidelines they can only have a maximum of 12 students per classroom.

Although we had to cancel most of the fun school events, we were still able to do a few and even add a new one. The students had their Halloween parade while the school families were able to watch it live on the internet or via the saved video. There was also a Zoom bingo night that was well attended. We are very blessed to have Ms. Claudia as our school director along with Ms. Season as assistant director. The love and leadership that they display is one of the reasons why our school has been able to come back strong, twice! All the teachers and support staff show such joy in what they do and our students are the beneficiaries of that.

I'd like to thank all who served on the school board this year: Marlene Filsinger, Julee Rich, Season Eng, Jan Garriss, Pastor Brian Hiortdahl, Claudia Zavala-Lanz, and Wendy Torres. I'd also like to thank the dedicated church members who participated in the fundraisers and volunteered their time to assist at many events.

We continue to explore new ways to welcome our preschool families into the church family. We encourage all church members to remind family and friends that we offer a quality, Christian preschool program and look forward to continued growth and development in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
James Helgager
Preschool Board President

Treasurer

2020 Actuals

One never knows how strong their faith is until it is tested. 2020 was certainly a test of faith! SOV members and their leadership leaned into their faith, the finance team quickly applied for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan, SOV members faithfully continued their 2020 giving commitments, and without hesitation completed the funding, raising \$242,000 (over two years), in support of the Shepherd of Tomorrow campaign! Thank you!

Leadership is making decisions before the need even arises. If we hadn't improved our sound system we wouldn't have been ready to record online services or conduct outdoor services.

Your faith has shone through during the events that unfolded in 2020. We were continually reminded and encouraged by Pastor Brian that God is with us, to open our Bibles to hear the Word and believe we will get through these events.

Thank you to Jan Garris and her team who moved quickly to apply for the PPP loan. This provided much needed financial support for both the church and school. Please know your council was always ready and on call to make any needed decisions.

SOV's income for 2020 totaled \$521,839 with total expenses of \$490,987 resulting in a net income of \$30,852. The PPP loan received this year amounted to \$155,109 and is included in total income. These funds were used to cover the salaries of both church and preschool. General giving was approximately 1% higher than 2019, yet 15% behind the budget. The other income of \$25,650 was provided by the preschool and the after-school rental company. Rental income fell below our budget as the school enrollment went from 88 students to a low of 12 and the after-school program had to be closed part of the year due to state mandates.

2020 actual expenses ended at \$490,987. Preschool salaries of \$77,350, are shown as a one-time expense within the church financials as they fall under the same tax identification number where the PPP funds were received. Total 2020 expenses, net of the preschool salaries equals \$413,637. The expense ended slightly higher due to unexpected water and electrical expenses. The anticipated savings from the solar panels did not materialize as DWP was very slow in certifying the solar panels due to COVID restrictions imposed on their personnel. Thank you to the dedicated efforts of the staff who persisted in calling DWP until the panels were finally online. This year 2020 also brought a water leak resulting in an increase to our water bills. Again, the dedicated finance team tracked this down and is also applying for a refund to offset the increase.

Despite all the challenges that 2020 brought, the one-time PPP loan and SOV's regular giving resulted in a \$30,000 surplus to be used for 2021 ministries. This is wonderful news! Thank you SOV members.

SOV's dedicated giving in 2020 brought in \$46,918, resulting in **fully funding** the Shepherd of Tomorrow campaign. Direct expense for 2020 totaled \$39,270 for a net increase in dedicated accounts at 12/31/20 of \$7,648. Due to the sanctuary being closed, some of these projects will resume when the campus reopens.

2021 Budget

The 2021 budget shows an increase of 3% in total income over 2020's planned budget, for a total of \$443,000. Within this figure, approximately \$55,000 is income from rental of the facility for an after-school program and the preschool. To balance the 2021 budget, there is \$24,000 in income from the SOV Foundation should the funds be needed. The budgeted income represents pledges received from the stewardship campaign along with anticipated unpledged income.

The 2021 budgeted expense totals \$423,884, before mortgage principal, which includes payroll increases for the pastor and staff that averaged 1%. Utility expense budgeted at \$56,922 represents an anticipated savings over the 2020 annual expense of \$76,385, reflecting online solar panel savings and reduced water expense. All other expenses are in line with the prior year.

The 2021 budget reflects a balanced budget.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Treasurer these last two years. Special appreciation and thanks to Jan Garris and her team who run a very tight ship and make this position easy and provide calm assurance to your SOV council.

From the Stewardship Campaign, I would like to share a quote from Dr. Walter Brueggemann, *The Liturgy of Abundance, The Myth of Scarcity*. The line that I believe captures the hearts of the SOV congregation "*the psalm makes clear that we don't need to worry. God is utterly, utterly reliable.*"

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Hagen
Council Treasurer

Stewardship

Giving and Serving Our Church

This was an unusual year with the pandemic keeping us from meeting in person for most of the year. However, we still received many pledges and I thank you for getting them to us.

Our theme was “Enough Already!” We focused on giving abundantly as we are abundantly blessed by God and pledges were sent to the office instead of being gathered as we usually do. Pastor led a very meaningful service dedicating our pledges. Pastor Brian led us off with a very inspiring service to start the stewardship drive, and Erin Studer introduced our theme at an early November on line service. The next 4 Sundays we were blessed to have inspiring messages of gratitude for blessings from Ruth Ause, Murray and Stephanie MacLeod, Laurie Golnick, and Chip Lee.

We have received 41 pledges which is down from 48 last year, and totaling \$227,569 which is down from last years total of \$246,364. We lost 8 pledges either from moves or deaths. Hopefully, we will continue to keep up our pledges and continue to remember to give abundantly in 2021 as we know that God continues to bless us.

My thanks to the committee, Carol Guillebeaux, Ruth Ause, and Erin Studer for all their help in planning, stuffing envelopes for distribution of stewardship materials, and ideas. And thank you to the congregation for your pledges and support. And a special thanks to Pastor Brian who guided and led us in this and all things with his inspiration and support.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Brauer
Stewardship Chairperson

Year	# Pledges	\$ Pledged	Average Pledge
2017	50	\$240,871	\$4,817
2018	43	\$206,640	\$4,806
2019	46	\$227,682	\$4,950
2020	48	\$246,364	\$5,133
2021	41	\$227,569	\$5,550

Audit Committee

2020 audit committee members: Jan Lee, Ruth Ause and Dave Engh

Audits of the following financial statements were performed:

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Preschool (fiscal year ended 8/31/20) (audited by Dave Engh)

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Preschool PTF (fiscal year ended 8/31/20) (audited by Dave Engh)

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Preschool Scrip (fiscal year ended 8/31/20) (audited by Dave Engh)

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (fiscal year ended 12/31/20) (audited by Ruth Ause)

Shepherd of the Valley Foundation (fiscal year ended 12/31/20) (audited by Jan Lee)

In our opinion, the financial statements (including the Balance Sheets and Income and Expense Statements presented for the above organizations and programs) are accurately reflected as of the end of their fiscal year.

Our tests included an analytical review of the overall reasonableness of the financial reports, reviews of the year-end bank statements (including the reconciliation to the financial statements) and other major account balances, and the sample testing of transactions recorded throughout the year. We also reviewed the accounting procedures and practices employed in each of these areas.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Lee, Ruth Ause, and Dave Engh
Auditors

2021 Audit Committee

The nominee for the new three year term is:

Julee Rich (first year of three-year term)

Audit positions are open as the current auditors will be serving on the 2021 Council and are no longer eligible to serve on the audit committee. The nominees to fulfill their terms are:

Sandi Engh (second year of three-year term, fulfilling Dave Engh's term)

Bob Lambert (third year of three-year term, fulfilling Ruth Ause's term)

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Balance Sheet and Designated Fund Balances

	Balance as of	
	12/31/19	12/31/20
Assets		
Cash and Equivalents	\$67,398	\$89,114
Prepays and Receivables	\$1,292	\$542
Buildings	\$1,795,760	\$1,795,761
Total Assets	\$1,864,450	\$1,885,417
Liabilities		
Prepaid Pledge	\$0	\$0
Accrued Liabilities/Payroll	\$15,529	\$16,909
Mortgage - Bank of the West	\$314,141	\$295,228
Total Liabilities	\$329,670	\$312,137
Fund Balance		
Designated Fund Balance*	\$67,991	\$75,639
Undesignated Fund Balance	\$1,486,329	\$1,466,789
Net income	(\$19,540)	\$30,852
Total Fund Balance	\$1,534,780	\$1,573,280
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$1,864,450	\$1,885,417

*Designated Fund Balances	Balance 12/31/2019	Year-To-Date		Balance 12/31/2020
		Receipts	Expenses	
Shepherd of Tomorrow	\$39,567	\$29,013	\$25,261	\$43,319
Capital Improvements	\$8,834	\$8	\$656	\$8,186
Memorials	\$7,297	\$5,260	\$3,750	\$8,807
Worship & Music	\$902	\$1,192	\$1,387	\$707
Mission Outreach	\$0	\$2,408	\$2,076	\$332
Parish Education	\$1,380	\$6,496	\$5,445	\$2,431
Parish Life/Youth	\$8,618	\$1,961	\$695	\$9,884
Barnabas/Pastor's Designated	\$1,393	\$580	\$0	\$1,973
Total Designated	\$67,991	\$46,918	\$39,270	\$75,639

Church General Fund Accounts

Statement of Income and Expense – Actuals and Budgets

	2019 Actuals	2020 Budget	2020 Actuals	2021 Budget
Income				
General Offerings Income	\$233,895	\$280,000	\$235,606	\$260,000
Debt Service Income	\$35,000	\$32,300	\$32,300	\$32,300
Designated - Benevolence	\$61,600	\$68,600	\$68,600	\$67,000
School Reimbursements	\$4,900	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$12,000
Paycheck Protection Prog. Church	\$0	\$0	\$ 77,759	\$0
Paycheck Protect. Prog. Preschool	\$0	\$0	\$77,350	\$0
Shepherd of Tomorrow	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
SOV Foundation Grant	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$24,000
Facility Rental	\$25,000	\$26,000	\$19,650	\$43,200
Program Reimbursements	\$14,268	\$12,000	\$4,574	\$4,500
Total Income	\$394,663	\$430,900	\$521,839	\$443,000
Expenses				
Benevolence - General	\$23,390	\$28,000	\$23,560	\$26,000
Benevolences - Misc. Ministries	\$1,618	\$6,600	\$1,800	\$5,000
Pastor Salaries	\$94,065	\$102,540	\$102,969	\$103,980
Pastor Benefits	\$25,729	\$25,054	\$25,501	\$27,714
Program Staff Salaries	\$29,233	\$27,720	\$24,029	\$25,712
Admin Staff Salaries	\$77,546	\$86,756	\$83,770	\$93,437
Preschool salaries reimb by PPP	\$0	\$0	\$77,350	\$0
Cleaning Service	\$5,100	\$5,400	\$0	\$0
Worker's Comp/Taxes	\$11,661	\$14,730	\$13,271	\$16,787
Loan Interest	\$14,176	\$13,300	\$14,280	\$13,200
Insurance	\$25,362	\$26,106	\$25,038	\$26,649
Facilities	\$19,727	\$16,602	\$12,320	\$13,773
Utilities	\$70,264	\$43,560	\$76,385	\$56,922
Office Expense	\$8,424	\$7,880	\$7,115	\$7,830
Worship & Music	\$5,015	\$4,136	\$2,571	\$3,580
Program Expenses	\$2,893	\$3,500	\$1,028	\$3,300
Total Expenses	\$414,203	\$411,884	\$490,987	\$423,884
General Income less Expense	(\$19,540)	\$19,016	\$30,852	\$19,116
Cash Adjustments:				
Mortgage/Roof Loan-Principal*	(\$18,140)	(\$19,016)	(\$18,913)	(\$19,116)
Prepaid Insurance	(\$1,133)		\$750	
Prepaid Pledge	(\$15,000)		\$0	
Incr/(Decr) Accounts Payable	\$3,505		\$1379	
Incr/(Decr) Dedicated Funds	\$32,073		\$7,648	
Other Misc.	\$0		\$0	
Net Cash Increase	(\$18,235)	\$0	\$21,716	\$0

* Actual expense reflected on balance sheet.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Preschool

Balance Sheet

	August 31	
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Assets		
Cash and Equivalents	\$92,600	\$55,046
Accounts Receivable	\$6,180	\$44,790
Prepaid Expense	\$654	\$1,104
PTF - Cash	\$5,232	\$7,319
Scrip - Inventory	\$5,965	\$5,806
Scrip - Cash	\$4,513	\$4,640
Total Assets	\$115,144	\$78,394
Liabilities & Equity		
Accrued Liabilities/Payroll	\$30,892	\$2,694
Prepaid Tuition	\$36,327	\$26,233
Barnabus Fund	\$1,538	\$838
PTF Fund Balance	\$5,232	\$7,319
Total Liabilities	\$73,989	37,084
Equity		
Scrip Equity	\$10,478	\$10,446
Retained Earnings	\$16,357	\$30,677
Net Income	\$14,320	\$ 187
Total Equity	\$41,155	\$41,310
	\$115,144	\$78,394

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Preschool

Statement of Income and Expense

Fiscal Year (FY) = September 1- August 31	FY 2020 Actuals	FY 2020 Approved Budget	FY 2021 Approved Budget
Income			
Tuition	\$356,427	\$509,740	\$277,430
Registration and Fees	\$19,050	\$20,625	\$18,800
Summer/Holiday Program	\$10,875	\$57,000	\$41,000
LA UP Grant	\$5,294	\$2,000	\$2,000
Scrip	\$2,055	\$2,000	\$1,500
Volunteer Rebate	\$0	(\$500)	\$0
Contributions/Fundraising	\$5,864	\$3,706	\$2,006
Total Income	\$399,565	\$594,571	\$342,736
Expenses			
Salaries	\$309,274	\$479,401	\$285,788
Salary Expense (taxes and benefits)	\$45,803	\$51,860	\$35,414
Cleaning Crew	\$9,510	\$17,100	\$0
Preschool Program Expenses	\$10,712	\$23,074	\$5,510
General School	\$3,696	\$3,445	\$2,025
Administrative	\$4,137	\$4,131	\$2,969
Copier/Equipment	\$2,735	\$3,920	\$2,820
Physical Plant	\$13,511	\$11,640	\$8,210
Total Expenses	\$399,378	\$594,571	\$342,736
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 187	\$0	\$0

Shepherd of the Valley Foundation

Shepherd of the Valley Foundation is a California non-profit corporation established in 1976. The Foundation exists to support the ministries of the congregation and the school, as a witness to Christ in the world, and the church at large. The Foundation receives gifts, endows funds, and disburses proceeds to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church and Preschool, now and in the future.

The Foundation seeks to establish a culture in which everyone in the congregation considers the witness of their faith in their regular giving, as well as their estate planning via wills, trusts, or other financial instruments.

This year the Foundation was able to provide contingent fluidity to the church to cover operating cash flow needs, and was able to provide support to our Preschool.

2020 was another good year for the Foundation investments in the face of large amounts of uncertainty.

We are thankful for Phil Ause's many years of service to the SOV Foundation. He will be greatly missed.

The 2020 Foundation Board members and their terms are as follows:

Caryl Benner (2018-2020)
Bonnie Boord (2018-2020)
Brian Filsinger (2018-2020)
Dave Engh (2019-2021)
Carl Smith (2019-2021)
Bob Lambert (2019-2021)
Phil Ause (2020-2022)
James Helgager (2020-2022)
Anne Studer (2020-2022)

The following individuals have agreed to continue to serve and are on the ballot:

Caryl Benner (2021-2023)
Brian Filsinger (2021-2023)

The following individuals have agreed to serve and are on the ballot:

Lisa Lambert—remainder of Phil Ause's term (2020-2022)
Brian Fairlee (2021-2023)

Respectfully submitted,
David Engh
Foundation President

Shepherd of the Valley Foundation Annual Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 26, 2020

President Dave Engh called the meeting to order at 11:51 a.m.

Motion to approve minutes from the 2019 meeting as presented. Minutes were approved.

Financials - Assets have declined. We have used the gains from the past few years. The Foundation provided funds for pastor's moving expenses. We have continued the program of matching 5th Sunday benevolence offerings. Financials are reflecting no problems. The Foundation is using the funds for our missions.

Three members are ending their term. All three have graciously agreed to serve another term. It was moved, seconded and approved to elect Phil Ause, James Helgager and Anne Studer to new three-year terms.

Foundation Board members for 2020 are:

Caryl Benner (2018-2020)
Bonnie Board (2018-2020)
Brian Filsinger (2018-2020)
Dave Engh (2019-2021)
Bob Lambert (2019-2021)
Carl Smith (2019-2021)
Phil Ause (2020-2022)
James Helgager (2020-2022)
Anne Studer (2020-2022)

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl A. Smith
SOV Foundation Secretary

Shepherd of the Valley Foundation

Balance Sheet and Designated Fund Balances

	Balance as of	
	12/31/2019	12/31/2020
Assets		
Cash and Equivalents	\$39,885	\$53,568
Long-Term Investments	\$119,000	\$107,213
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	\$41,598	\$50,354
Total Assets	\$200,483	\$211,135

Fund Balance		
Designated Fund Balance*	\$142,107	\$142,492
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	\$41,598	\$50,353
Undesignated Fund Balance	\$17,930	\$16,778
Net Income	(\$1,152)	\$1,512
Total Fund Balance	\$200,483	\$211,135

	Balance	Year-To-Date		Balance
*Designated Fund Balances	12/31/2019	Receipts	Expenses	12/31/2020
Lou Stewart Youth Endowment Fund	\$13,865	\$818	\$0	\$14,683
School Alumni Assoc. Endowment	\$1,907	\$113	\$0	\$2,020
PTF Athletic Fields Endowment	\$10,605	\$626	\$0	\$11,231
Franich Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$27,342	\$1,614	\$5,000	\$23,956
Mission Outreach Endowment	\$25,169	\$2,929	\$3,250	\$24,848
Capital Endowment Fund	\$63,219	\$3,715	\$1,180	\$65,754
Total Designated	\$142,107	\$9,815	\$9,430	\$142,492

Shepherd of the Valley Foundation

Statement of Income and Expense

Income	2019	2020
Contributions - Undesignated	\$2,937	\$856
Contributions - Designated	\$1,000	\$0
Capital Gains Distributed and Dividends	\$10,393	\$8,973
Total Income	\$14,330	\$9,829

Allocation of Income

Current Endowments:

Mission Outreach	\$1,000	\$0
Cap. Gains & Div. allocated to funds	\$10,385	\$8,314

Distributions:

SOV General Fund/Designated	\$0	\$0
SOV Transition- Pastor Relocation	\$4,090	\$0
School Donation	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous/Investment Expenses	\$7	\$3

Total Distributions & Allocations	\$15,482	\$8,317
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Net Undesignated Expense	(\$1,152)	\$1,512
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Nominating Committee for 2021 Council Nominations

On the committee:

Pastor Brian Hiortdahl, convener

Sandi Engh, Laurie Golnick, Barbara Kaye, Julie Rowland, Geoff Zanelli, and Craig Burns (replaced by alternate, Nick Garris)

Congregation Officers are elected for one-year term with re-election permitted once. The 2021 Congregational Officers nominated by the committee are as follows:

President	Chip Lee	begin first term
Vice President	John Hagaman	begin first term
Treasurer	Ruth Ause	begin first term
Secretary	Jennifer Barth	begin first term

Board Chairpersons are elected to serve two-year terms with re-election permitted once. The following have been nominated:

Parish Education	Kjrste Hillig	served one term, eligible
Trustees	Dave Engh	begin first term (completed term of vacated office)
Mission Outreach	Gina Hagen	begin first term
Parish Life	Katie Mayer	fulfilling unexpired term, eligible

The following are in the middle of their terms and are not on the ballot:

School Board	James Helgager	middle of first term
Deacons	Lisa Lambert	middle of second term
Stewardship	Marie Brauer	middle of second term

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR NOMINEES

Chip Lee — President

Chip grew up at SOV, attended our school and was confirmed here. Later, he assisted in teaching Sunday school for 10 years. He continues to serve as a Stephen Minister and Leader and was part of the Call Committee. Chip is currently serving as our Vice President and has previously served as our President. Chip is a graduate of UCLA with a degree in Political Science. He works at PRG Aviation Systems where he is the lead software developer. Chip coaches youth volleyball (during non-pandemic times) and actively engages in micro-finance. He loves to fish and kayak.

John Hagaman — Vice President

John Hagaman and his wife, Debbie, joined Shepherd of the Valley in 1992. Their children, JT and Amy were born shortly thereafter and were both baptized at SOV. John served on Council for two years as President and another two years as Vice-President in the early 2000s. John is excited to return to leadership at SOV. John is an Engineering Manager at SL Power Electronics. Debbie was a full-time substitute teacher until the pandemic hit. JT is an animator for Sony PlayStation and Amy is a Communications major at CSUN. In his spare time, John loves to hike, camp and attend USC Football games.

Ruth Ause — Treasurer

Ruth Ause is a Certified Public Accountant with experience in both Finance and System Implementations. She worked for Nestle USA for 19 years which included an opportunity to work in Switzerland for 2 years. After leaving Nestle, she has had the opportunity to consult at many companies including Starbucks in Seattle. She has been a member of SOV since age 2 when her parents moved from Minnesota. Ruth loves to travel and attend LA Kings games, concerts, and plays. She is hoping to do all those things again soon!

Jennifer Barth — Secretary

Jennifer and her family moved to Woodland Hills in late 2017. Shortly thereafter, they began to attend SOV and in 2019 joined as members. Currently both Jennifer and Bob participate in singing in service to SOV and their son Jackson (13) has been volunteering to help with the A/V support for in-person services and recording/editing the virtual services. Jackson is also going through Confirmation at SOV and will take his First Communion at SOV once it is safe for gatherings. Jennifer has been blessed with two careers, one as a professional actor for the stage having performed in numerous US and European musical theatre productions. For the last 12 years she has worked for Google in various roles and currently is a program manager focused on Digital and Computer science education for US-based educators and students. Her husband Bob received a Screenwriting Fellowship at the American Film Institute and currently works for Warner Brothers and Berlanti Productions. In their spare time, they love travel, cooking, music and boardgames as well as enjoying their terrier and Bernese Mountain dog fur babies.

Kjrste Hillig — Parish Education

Kjrste grew up in Redlands, California where she attended Faith Lutheran Church in Yucaipa. Except for an 8 year hiatus to live in New York City, she has lived in Southern California all her life. In 2005, Kjrste, along with her husband Rob settled in Winnetka and joined Shepherd of the Valley. They both joined the choir where they continue to sing. They have two children, Brendan (14) and Johanna (12). She enjoys music, crafty type hobbies like sewing, quilting, and knitting, and hockey (Go Kings!).

Dave Engh — Trustees

Dave has been a member at SOV since 1986, and has served on church council in various positions, returning this year to the Trustee Chair position. He was a two-time Scoutmaster, enjoys the outdoors, and can find his way around a toolbox. Dave was a confirmation program Guide for six years. He and wife Sandi have four children and a grandchild who attended school at SOV. He frequently volunteered with Sandi at Camp El Camino Pines and is looking forward to on-site visits to camp and to our campus.

Gina Hagen — Mission Outreach

Gina Hagen has been a member of SOV for over 25 years where her children attended the elementary school. Gina is married to Dave, a bankruptcy attorney who has a private practice serving the San Fernando Valley. Gina has previously served as the SOV treasurer. By trade, Gina is a Certified Public Accountant and has recently received her certificate in personal financial planning. In her free time she enjoys playing tennis and outdoor hiking.

Katie Mayer — Parish Life

Katie Mayer grew up going to SOV, attending the elementary school and completing confirmation. After attending college in San Luis Obispo, she has returned to southern California to work for a structural engineering firm in Pasadena. In her free time, she enjoys cuddling with and taking pictures of her guinea pig, and cross stitching.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE 2022 COUNCIL

Nominees for the Nominating Committee for the 2022 Council are as follows. Constitutionally, two members are to be outgoing council members.

Outgoing Council members: Lisa Lambert and Marie Brauer

Members: Murray MacLeod, Ken Marshall, Diane Haskell, and Bret Donaldson

2021 SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

Anne and Erin Studer

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

LITANY

L. O God of all power and love ...

C. ... we give thanks for your unfailing presence.

L. O God of all power and love, we give thanks ...

C. ... for the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.

L. O God of all power and love ...

C. ... we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask you ...

C. ... to revive us to live as Christ's body in the world.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask to be ...

C. ... a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.

L. O God of all power and love, we ask you to be with us ...

C. ... wherever and however we gather. Unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Build Us Up, Lord

1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in
2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our

us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your
lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our

ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.
doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.

Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us

guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the
bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us

world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.
sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.

Refrain

Grow - ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king - dom; we fol - low in

faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your

word to spread the news of your Son!

Text: Mark Glaeser, b. 1956, and Donna Hanna, b. 1952
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In the early verses of Ephesians 4, the apostle Paul writes to the Christians in Ephesus, a city on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of a river and at the intersection of three trading routes. The letter was written about ten years after the church had started. During the early years of this congregation, Jews and Gentiles from several ethnicities and nationalities had come together to form “one body.” Paul was aware that they had done well and commended them for their faith and love.

The word “one” appears more than seven times in the first four verses. This reflects the importance Paul gave to being called into the “unity of Christ.” He wanted to note that, although many of the church members came from far off, there is “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” This oneness reflects God’s gift of reconciliation in Christ.

A second emphasis from Paul was that, as believers, they were to “bear with one another in love.” This would require humility, gentleness and patience as each of them practiced their faith. It would require tolerance to “maintain unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

A third emphasis was that each person had been given gifts by God and that these gifts were given to increase the whole. Because the Ephesian church was a young congregation and its members were just beginning in their faith journey, their understandings were often tossed to and fro. But as they grew in faith, each person contributed to building up the body of Christ.

The fourth and final emphasis was that by “speaking the truth in love,” each person must grow into Christ. This means taking time to learn about one another and their gifts. Knowing these gifts, we can do God’s work both within and beyond the faith community. When there are decisions to make or relationships to reconcile, we know to begin with prayer and reflection, always desiring to speak the truth in love — not for our own benefit but for God’s glory, that we might become more complete.

As our members and friends gather today, whether face-to-face or online, we are reminded of our calling into “unity in Christ.” We come from many places and work in many contexts, and yet we recognize “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.”

Whether new to a worshiping community or further along the journey, we realize that humility, gentleness and patience are required both in the good times and especially in times of uncertainty and struggle. God wants us to be more complete through our work. Christ provides the way. The Holy Spirit is with us for guidance and courage. Each of us has been given the gifts to be complete, and through our faithfulness we will grow stronger and work together as one body.

LET US PRAY: LORD, LET THE WORDS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL DWELL IN US DEEPLY. MAY WE EMBRACE THE RECONCILING POWER OF ONENESS WITH CHRIST. MAY THIS ONENESS GUIDE OUR CONGREGATION AS WE LIVE INTO THE NEW REALITIES OF THESE TIMES. AS WE MEET NEW PARTNERS IN MINISTRY, MAY WE TAKE TIME TO GET TO KNOW THEM WITH PATIENCE, HUMILITY AND LOVE. HELP US TO SEE HOW SHARING OUR GIFTS WILL MAKE YOUR WORK EASIER AND MORE FULFILLING WHILE BRINGING ALL OF US CLOSER TO CHRIST. MAY THE BLESSINGS YOU GIVE EACH DAY STRENGTHEN US TO A LIVING, DARING CONFIDENCE IN YOUR GRACE. AMEN.