

First Saskatchewan
Lutheran Church 2020 Financial

	Totals	Statement Year Total	Year End	2020 Budget
Balance Forward Chequing	\$ 53,284.81			
Term Deposits	\$ 104,613.76			
Term Deposit Interest 2020	\$ 2,055.80			
Total	\$ 159,954.37			

INCOME:

First Sask Envelopes	\$ 44,454.06	
Loose Offering	\$ 83.75	
Missions	\$ 1,841.50	
Donations	\$ 4,600.00	
Memorials	\$ 1,400.00	
Other Income	\$ 2,663.84	
Youth + Sunday School money	\$ 858.90	
Grave Plot	\$ 400.00	
GST Rebate	\$ -	
Total Income	\$ 56,302.05	

EXPENSES:

Parrish Account	\$ 21,908.70	\$ 23,900.00
ELCIC Benevolence(monthly)	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
ELCIC Benevolence(other)	\$ 1,841.50	
Maintenance & Renovations	\$ 2,577.86	\$ 10,000.00
Power	\$ 1,287.68	\$ 1,400.00
Heat	\$ 1,602.79	\$ 1,800.00
Telephone	\$ 678.24	\$ 800.00
Water & Snow Removal	\$ 102.00	\$ 500.00
Furnishings	\$ 2,481.79	\$ 3,000.00
Insurance & Legal Fees	\$ 2,495.24	\$ 2,500.00
Groceries & Kitchen	\$ 226.88	\$ 1,000.00
Worship Supplies	\$ 416.57	\$ 400.00
Music	\$ -	\$ 800.00
Christmas (SS)	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Conventions	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Gifts	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,800.00
Christian Education	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Youth	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Postage & Office	\$ 18.40	\$ 200.00
GST	\$ 573.51	\$ 350.00
Bank Charges	\$ 12.00	\$ 50.00
Non Budget	\$ 1,592.80	
Income Tax Prep	\$ 2,718.90	\$ 1,500.00
Lutheran Theological Seminary	\$ 370.00	\$ 370.00
Total Expenses	\$ 48,204.86	\$ 58,570.00

Bank Balance Dec. 31 ,2020

Chequing account	\$ 61,382.00
Term Deposits	\$ 106,669.56
Total	\$ 168,051.56

Submitted by Janice Brown

Reviewed and found correct: January 22/2021 Diletew
LC Heston January 23/2021



Saskatchewan Synod Insert for 2020 Congregational Annual Reports

Year-end letter from Bishop Sid Haugen

As I write this letter, I am trying to imagine you gathering early in 2021 for the annual meeting of the congregation. Are you sitting in front of a computer screen in your homes? Or will Health Directives allow you to gather in your church sanctuaries in limited numbers, physically distanced, and masked? Or will it be a hybrid of the two? 2020 has been a year of 'working it out'—with congregations facing the daily challenge of 'being the church' in an unpredictable world. Much of what we have always done we either cannot do, or are required to do in radically new ways. Our work at synod has been similarly marked by the challenge the pandemic presented. In this odd year of 2020, there were particular ways synod was not able to work 'as normal' this past year, and there were also unique opportunities for the work of the synod with congregations, ministries and rostered ministers

Support of congregations and ministries: Synod continues to support the work of congregations and ministries. On a very basic level, synod acts as a 'cooperative' of congregations and ministries. Congregations provide benevolence to the synod so that the whole body is offered support. One of the reasons congregations give to the synod is so that their sisters and brothers across the synod have support when it is time to call a pastor or when it is time to handle a congregational issue or even when it time to deal with the difficult work of church closure.

During 2020 support of congregations and ministries continued as usual in some respects. We connected with congregations seeking leadership. Some were looking to call a pastor. Others were seeking ways of being church when the parish could no longer afford a full-time pastor. We worked with congregations needing to have a conversation about closure.

In the pandemic world, synod handled a different set of issues in support of congregations and ministries. Congregations and ministries faced the challenge of how to be church during the pandemic, given the Health Directives that restricted our usual way of worshipping, learning and serving. Synod office arranged an array of Zoom calls for congregational leaders. Pastor Ali Tote, who has a PhD in epidemiology worked with the synod as we brought together congregational leaders during the various phases of the pandemic. Typically, we met over one week to consult with lay and rostered leaders across the synod and the next week we met with the leadership to present Synod guidelines. During each phase, we would affirm our responsibility as church to follow the Health Directives for the sake of our people and the communities in which we serve. Then we presented Synod guidelines as recommendations from Synod for each of our congregations and ministries to consider. In our polity, congregations and ministries are responsible to interpret those synod guidelines given their knowledge of their own specific context. Zoom calls also took up conversations with the synod finance manager about ways to fund the congregation when we could not meet together and 'pass the plate', including a discussion about how to apply for pandemic funding available federally. Feedback on the Zoom calls has been very positive from faith leadership. Over a week of Zoom calls with synod leadership, we would have more than 100 of our lay and rostered leaders on the calls. Unprecedented times are difficult to face, but almost impossible to face alone. Many thanks to Pastor Ali for his work with us in this time.

Support of rostered ministers: Rostered ministers found themselves significantly challenged by the pandemic. So much of ministry is about presence: gathering people for worship, gathering the grieving for a funeral, gathering a confirmation class or an adult class to study, meeting people in their homes for pastoral care, working with council and committees to do ministry. COVID changed nearly everything. Synod worked with rostered

ministers in the early part of the pandemic to meet by Zoom primarily to support each other. We gathered rostered leaders in 'clusters' of 12-15 by geographic area--weekly for the first months of the pandemic. We met for Dwelling in the Word, mutual support and sharing updates. I will not soon forget the feel of these meetings. We needed each other. During the summer and fall, the roster met by Zoom together with lay leadership to deal with new phases in the pandemic.

As we moved through the COVID days I have been really impressed with the roster. Ministers who have never used video stepped up and worked at it. Whether comfortable with the media or not, the remote video services have been well attended by the faith communities. They know their minister's familiar voice. Indeed, many of the remote services have seen increased numbers from person to person worship. On the other hand, some ministers understanding that their community was not going to be able to access even simple internet (sometimes the bandwidth was simply not there), produced orders of prayer, sermons delivered by hand and organized 'phone trees' for community care.

The wider church: The pandemic has seen a drawing together of leadership across the ELCIC. Synodical treasurers and the national treasurer have met throughout the pandemic to understand the financial challenges, and to present resources available for our congregations and ministries. The conference of bishops has met throughout the pandemic for mutual support and to share ideas. One of the developments from our conversation was the idea to provide a sermon resource for the summer. The six bishops and the assistants to the bishop all prepared a print and video version of a sermon for the period from mid June to mid September. The sermon series was received very well across the church. It was also one of the ways we have been brought together across the country as one church.

Synod office move: With the Seminary leaving its building on Seminary Cr., we initiated a search for office space before the pandemic, a process that suddenly halted during early months of the pandemic. But we did find a space in north Saskatoon. During the summer, when Health Directives were somewhat less restrictive, we moved to a newly renovated office space in the industrial park in Saskatoon: #6-2220 Northridge Dr. It is easy to locate, near the corner of Idylwyld and Circle Dr, located in a service mall with ample free parking, and has excellent WIFI.

Synod convention 2021: Synod convention will run as scheduled this summer on June 4-5. But we will not gather in person. We will meet in a virtual convention. ELCA synods who have held virtual conventions in the past year, have reported at times wider participation in the virtual conventions than they have had in face to face. Look for further information in the weeks ahead.

Financial: The synod, as you know, is financed by the voluntary 'benevolence' of our congregations and ministries. From that benevolence Synod supports our key partners: 20% of that benevolence to our National Church and 15% of benevolence to our Lutheran Theological Seminary. The remainder is used directly within our synod. Staffing at synod remains quite lean: our administrative team in Saskatoon consists of a .75 time office manager, a .5 time executive assistant, and a .2 time finance manager; our pastoral team on the road consists of two .25 time Assistants to the Bishop. In total this staff of just under 2 Full time Equivalents support me in the synod's work with our roster of congregations and ministries: 106 congregations, 3 synod ministries (and several other ministries with whom we have a formal relationship); and with the roster of ministers: 125 ministers including active, on leave from call and retired. Congregational benevolence also supports the work of synod council, synod committees and provides a synod office for the administration of the synod.

While congregations have done very well in developing other ways of funding than 'passing the plate' every Sunday, most congregations have experienced, nonetheless, a decline in financial support. Not surprisingly, the synod has received moderately less financial support from the congregations during the pandemic. At the same time, our expenses have been reduced with less travel by the bishop and assistants, less travel, lodging, and meeting expenses for synod council and committees (who have been meeting virtually for the most part since

mid-March). While 2021 looks like it will move step by step toward some form of normalcy by fall, synod funding for this year is concerning. Please keep the synod in your prayers, and in your budget conversations as we move together into this new year.

So here we are. At the end of a challenging year for our communities and for our congregations that we had not anticipated. At the beginning of a year full of uncertainty. We once walked through a pandemic like this back in the early part of the 20th century. And we are still here. I'm reminded of Jurgen Moltmann, the theologian of hope. Moltmann said that though we suffer the "No" of God in many ways, God's last word, God's lasting word is always "Yes." So we work and we pray on this journey of hope.

Loving 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.*

Peace,

Bishop Sid

Please visit the Synod website at www.sasksynod.ca to sign up for Synod News or to find information from our Synod.