

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

WOODBURY LUTHERAN CHURCH



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OUR VISION

MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES // TRANSFORMING LIVES

OUR MISSION

TO FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST,
GROW AS HIS DISCIPLES,
SERVING AND TELLING OTHERS,
SO THAT ALL MAY KNOW HIM
AS SAVIOR AND LORD.



P A S T O R ' S N O T E

As we kicked off 2020 I am very grateful that we didn't start the year with a series called, **2020 Vision**. I am reminded of the old saying, "Man plans and God laughs." What else can be said about 2020 that hasn't already been said? It was an incredibly challenging year in so many ways and yet the blessings of Jesus shone even brighter in the darkness.

I am so thankful for our Church and the way that you all stepped into our vision of **Multiplying Disciples // Transforming Lives** in new and exciting ways. What you will find in this Annual Report is far more than numbers, it is an account of incredible ministry that you represent and carry out.

As COVID-19 hit we put together 5 Guiding Principles that we used to help lead us. Each of the principles is grounded deeply in **both Scripture and our Values as a Church**.

1. **We will be good citizens** (Romans 13, Truth, Each Person, Our Community).
2. **We will provide ongoing ministries** (Hebrews 10:25, Movement).
3. **We will make personal connections** (Philippians 1:3-6, Relationships, Each Person).
4. **We will find ways to help** (James 1:27, Our Community, Compassionate Care).
5. **We will steward our resources well** (1 Peter 4:10, Truth).

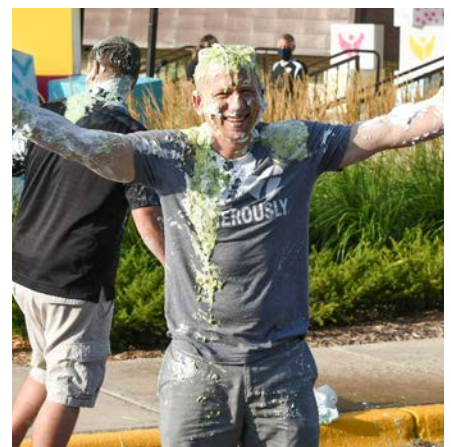
We have seen these guiding principles come to life this last year in both challenging and powerful ways. In the following pages, you will read about a **Worship Ministry** that was able to shift in very complex ways to lead us into worship in our homes, in our parking lots, on acres of empty land, and in our sanctuaries. You will read about **Serventure** and the impact we made in our local community. You will read about the unrelenting **Generosity** of Woodbury Lutheran in so many ways!

As you read about all that has happened in 2020, at the heart of it all you will read about Jesus as He declares in Matthew 25:35, "**For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.**"

WLC, I could not be more proud to follow Jesus with each of you. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us in 2021!

Peace,

Pastor Tom



ALL-CAMPUS REPORT

WOODBURY LUTHERAN CHURCH

M E M B E R S H I P

3131

BAPTIZED MEMBERS

2623

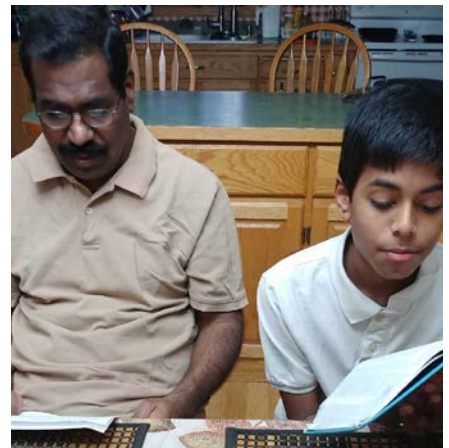
CONFIRMED MEMBERS

38

YOUTH & ADULT
BAPTISMS

33

YOUTH & ADULT
CONFIRMATIONS



G E N E R O S I T Y

MISSIONS & MINISTRY FUNDS

\$3,441,182

CONTRIBUTED TO WLC MISSIONS & MINISTRY

\$163,500

CONTRIBUTED TO WLC ENDOWMENT FUND

\$50,000

SENT TO FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

\$63,015

ADDITIONALLY CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS DEBT



CELEBRATING 2020

WOODBURY LUTHERAN CHURCH

LIBERTY RIDGE



In February the Liberty Ridge campus celebrated its fourth anniversary. Momentum was building in attendance and connections in the neighborhood. Then, when the Covid crisis struck in March, Liberty Ridge Elementary School was no longer able to serve as the location for the campus to meet. The extended school closure took a toll on the momentum that had been building up to that point. In December, after considerable prayer and conversation, the Church Council made the difficult decision that it was the right time to close the chapter on Liberty Ridge.

As we look back over its four years, we celebrate that countless lives were touched through the ministry of Liberty Ridge. We are grateful for Pastor Jon and we give thanks to God for those whose faith was strengthened and those who came to faith under his pastoral leadership. We also want to thank the people who faithfully served in so many ways each week to bring Liberty Ridge to life; we are grateful for a congregation that was and is willing to put our value of movement into action and take a step in faith. The impact of Liberty Ridge will live on in ways we may not fully understand and we give glory to God for relationships formed, lives transformed, and the Gospel proclaimed.



EASTER GIVE BACK & RIP MEDICAL DEBT

In April 2020 WLC practiced generosity by bringing back the ***Easter Give-Back and giving away our entire Easter offering*** to ministries that were impacted by COVID. Through your generosity almost **\$90,000 dollars** were raised and given to the following organizations:

- **Faith City Church (Storehouse Grocers), Dayton's Bluff:** \$5,000 helped provide Easter meals for families in need and will help to continue to provide meals to those dealing with food insecurity.
- **Esperanza Ministries, Shakopee:** \$5,000 is being used to provide food for those dealing with food insecurity. In the weeks following the COVID outbreak, they went from serving 75 families to over 300.
- **Christian Cupboard, Oakdale:** \$5,000 was donated to provide food for those dealing with food insecurity. Since the onset of COVID the number of families served has doubled to over 1,200 families per week.
- **End Slavery Ministries, Casa Adelia, Ecuador:** \$5,000 is being used to provide basic needs for

women and girls coming out of vulnerable situations such as sex trafficking, prostitution, abuse, and domestic violence.

- **Options for Women, Stillwater:** \$32,500 is being used to meet the needs of women in crisis pregnancy situations. Their mission is to stop abortion one at a time by walking with women every step of the way, in a no-cost, judgement-free environment.
- **Union Gospel Mission, St. Paul:** \$32,500 is being used to meet the basic needs of the homeless and most vulnerable.

Then, at Christmas WLC partnered with ***RIP Medical Debt***. We sent them almost **\$33,000 dollars** that will be used to pay off overwhelming medical debt for those who qualify. Over the next several months we will learn just how much debt will get paid off, but it should be close to **\$3,000,000!**

\$90,903

CONTRIBUTED TO EASTER GIVE BACK

\$32,940

SENT TO RIP MEDICAL DEBT

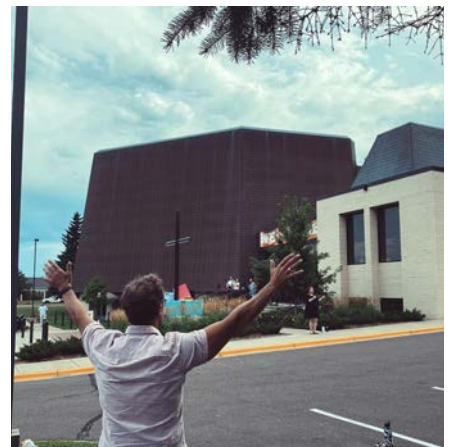
WORSHIP



Scripture encourages us to “not give up meeting together.” In the midst of all the curveballs over the past year ‘INNOVATION’ was the name of the game for our Worship Department.

In 2021, our focus will be on sustainability and scalability for the sake of our worship gatherings.

If you were to think back to your normal worship routine before COVID hit, a phrase like “in-person worship” was never part of our vocabulary. We ‘went to church!’ (Think “WLC LIVE.”) In March, our response to COVID started overnight with us moving exclusively to filming and broadcasting our services online. (Think - “WLC TV”.)



WORSHIP



As restrictions were lifted and the weather warmed up gathering together in a parking lot so we could be together and see each other was the next best thing. (Think “WLC FM”.) Our pastors, worship leaders, and members of many other teams came together to represent all three campuses in hospitality, stage crew, music, parking lot logistics, and roller-blade ushers!

One of the best things we did last year was to create an opportunity for our people to come together for ‘festival-style’ worship gatherings on our Afton Land. A six-person planning meeting turned an idea into what we’re sure will become a new tradition! Taking what we learned from the first gathering, we added a Saturday-night event that grew to include two bands, free food, a car show, and a food drive! It took a slew of volunteers to put it all together to cover transportation and logistics, food, stage crew, parking, music, technical arts, and the car show. Don’t be surprised when we do it again in 2021.



WORSHIP



KIDS MINISTRY



In March all of our “traditional” ways of reaching kids and families went out the window. So our incredible team jumped in to think outside the box to bring quality, Christ-centered content in new ways:

- We created an Online Kids LINK program that averages 170 kids weekly!
- We turned our summer camps into Family Camps and provided virtual teaching and activities in a box.
- We provided a Family Costume Party for WLC members and friends this fall with 300 people attending.
- Simply Christmas boxes were given to 114 kids in 57 families, to teach children about Advent through virtual lessons and craft activities.

YOUTH MINISTRY

In 2020, we had the opportunity to explore many new ways of connecting: Zoom calls, text messages, virtual games nights, outdoor Bible studies, service, physically-distanced small groups, and many deliveries of Bibles and journals, prizes, and goodies.

Many things happened that we are grateful for. At the top of the list are the amazing adults who volunteered their time, prayers, and hearts to our youth. Nearly 100 adults served and created a welcoming environment for youth walking the lifelong journey of being followers of Jesus.

2020 may have looked different, but NextGen Ministries continued reaching out to kids, youth, and their families with the message that they are loved, saved, and changed by Jesus.



SERVENTURE



Serving has always been a big part of our mission and values. This past summer, WLC introduced **Serventure** (Jesus+Serving+Adventure), an initiative focused on mobilizing ourselves in service and growing disciples of Jesus. We served all over the Twin Cities and experienced the fullness that comes from being Jesus' hands and feet. Over 1,000 service hours later, many relationships were formed, laughter was shared, resources were given and received, and our faith family served and responded to the needs of the community...all in the name of Jesus!

JUNE

- 187 people served
- Projects included landscaping at WLC, Trinity First boxes, flower pots, blessing teacher Klee, blessing member Connie, Options for Women, and gardening at the Afton land

JULY

- 142 people served
- Projects included harvesting, cleaning at Trinity First, blankets for the Lewis House, Ronald McDonald bags, blessing teacher Tina, removing nails and moving 4 tons of wood for Settled, Options for Women, New Life Family Services, and Skoolie

AUGUST

- 113 people served
- Projects included preschool playground freshened up, garden and benches freshened up at the Afton Land, rocks moved at Oak Hill, Trinity First, Options for Women, Valley Outreach, Ronal McDonald House, Bike-a-Thon, blessing teacher Brenda, Skoolie, and New Life Family Services



SERVENTURE



SMALL GROUPS



This past year provided an opportunity to renew WLC's vision and definition for small groups: **UP to God, IN a family on mission, and OUT to a hurting world.** When the pandemic hit small groups pivoted to Zoom meetings, outdoor gatherings, and safely socially distanced gatherings with masks in homes and on campus. The determination, flexibility, and creativity of WLC's small groups to continue to safely meet and serve is inspiring!

Equipped with new sermon-based weekly discussion guides, people were rooted in God's Word and were able to grow closer to him and to each other. Monthly leader gatherings kicked off in August with training and practical small-group tips to Multiply Disciples and Transform Lives.

New online avenues combined with personal invitations saw new connections made and new small groups formed. As people are increasingly isolated, connection with God and one another is more important than ever. **We are better together!**

SETTLED - TINY HOMES

Settled provides a unique approach to the chronically homeless, believing they suffer from a catastrophic loss of family and community. Rather than only providing shelter, Settled also provides loving support to help with the adjustment to a new living situation. Their solution, Sacred Settlements, consists of a community of tiny homes with shared facilities such as laundry, gardens, and gathering areas. Specially trained missional neighbors live in the settlement and work with all the members to ensure that the settlement is healthy and thriving.

In 2020, WLC was invited to serve alongside five other churches and denominations to build six tiny homes for the first Sacred Settlement in Minnesota! We salvaged lumber, donated funds, built and outfitted the homes, served lunch, and learned! To quote the CEO of Settled: **"Wow, Woodbury Lutheran shows up!"**



GLOBAL MISSIONS



WLC supports 10 missionary families around the world. These 20 adults and 11 children bring the Good News of Jesus to those who haven't heard it, have turned their backs on him, or are pushed down by their cultures and don't understand his deep love for them.

COVID impacted our missionaries in different ways depending on the countries where they serve. One common theme was lower financial giving from their support bases. However, WLC was steadfast in our commitment to provide our missionaries with the financial support we planned at the beginning of 2020. These families are grateful for your generous support during difficult times. In addition to financial support WLC also assembled "Barnabas Teams" for two of our missionary families providing ongoing love and closer care for those doing the work of the Gospel abroad.

BACKPACKS FOR GOOD

In December we had the privilege of demonstrating the love of Jesus by bringing a bit of hope to children in foster care, their providers, and their social workers through a partnership with Together for Good. Over 300 backpacks were purchased and filled with essentials—toys, blankets, and hygiene items—dropped off at our campuses, and delivered to Together for Good offices in St. Paul. Theresa from Together for Good said, *"We are so thankful and excited about such an overwhelmingly positive response! Thank you for caring for these kids!!! [The backpacks] have been and will continue to be such a blessing to the families receiving them."*



WL PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN



Woodbury Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten strive to share the love and Good News of Jesus with young children and families while providing excellence in early education. Most years this means children come to the classroom, but for a portion of 2020, when the children could not come to us, we went to them! Our caring preschool staff adapted to the changes and sent home learning materials, hosted Zoom class times, shared video lessons, and celebrated with a preschool parade and online graduations.

Rules about cleaning, group sizes, and staffing created opportunities to think differently about routines and classroom spaces but it didn't change how Woodbury Lutheran Preschool TAUGHT children. Preschool staff also recognized the opportunity to meet a critical need by providing in-person Kindergarten. Throughout this school year, Woodbury Lutheran Preschool has continued to move forward providing excellence in education, preparing children for the next stop on their journey, and communicating how much Jesus loves them.



MEMBERS & STAFF

WOODBURY LUTHERAN CHURCH

L I F E E V E N T S

BAPTISMS

Brynlee Probst	Orion Sturm	Ivy Pertzsch
Alayah Anderson	Jameson Sturm	Blake Stoffel
Lacey Anderson	Penelope Dalbec	Charles Stennes
Blake Thompson	Jacqueline Hedegaard	Abigail Finnegan
Zander Walberg	Kennedy Brewster	
Peter Pontius	Quorra Jankiewicz	
Maxwell Jorgensen	Alma Schaefer	
Zac Krueger	Hoyt Olson	
Sophia Kuhrmeyer	Finnley Schmidt	
Mason Kuhrmeyer	Kentlee Timm	
Audrey Grant	Nelson Kinmounth	
Ian Grant	June Groth	
Elodie Grant	Louis Graen	
Eve Smith	Hazel Crow	
Ethan Thomas	Layla Kennedy	
Mae Roberts	Hazel Spaeth	
Elsie Hetrick	Westin Zimmer	

YOUTH CONFIRMANDS

Carli Bauman
Claire Becken
Hadley Burger
Caden Jamison
Cameron Jamison
Hanna McGuire
Matthew Mortenson
Sammi Odegard
Brooke Salzman
Olivia Schouveller
Jack Schuldt
Ethan Topp
Jack Usalis

WEDDINGS

Kip Sander & Liz Todd (February)
David Meyer & Amber Brown (March)
Matthew Matejka & Melissa Kamarek (April)
Justin Carciofini & Lindsey Conley (May)
Dan Peterson, III & Sarah Mazzaresse (June)
Chris Schwake & Michelle Cattell (June)
Ryan Mroszak & Angela Eberspacher (June)
William Deroche & Laura McDaniel (June)
Ryan Peterson & Leah Rose (July)
Kyle Duffy & Blair Fanning (August)
Gabe Howard & Casey Linert (August)
Alex Bohn & Stephanie Cout (September)
Ryan Winter & Lisa Huska (September)
Derek Clevenger & Alexa Veneza (September)
Daniel Sauro & Jenna Wakefield (September)
Nathan Belisle & Hannah Baumann (September)
Andrew Rose & Amanda Dixon (November)
Joshua Miller & Allison Marshall (December)

MEMBERS WHO PASSED

Gilbert Thoele
Mike Anderson
Bob Jensen
Daniel Hove
Jack Lindau
Glenn Jenkins
Larry Rizzardi
Diane Miller
Barb Jackson
Halle Heggernes
Marnie Andrews
Bill Nisbit
Dorothy Wolfgram

S T A F F & L E A D E R S H I P

STAFF

Tom Pfotenhauer Senior Pastor
Tim Marshall Pastoral Care Ministries Pastor
Andrew Asp Vicar
Dean Dunavan Oak Hill Campus Vicar
Mark Stutelberg Business Administrator
Joel Symmank Director of Ministries
Joel Wetzstein Director of Worship
Karl Grant Valley Creek Organist / Choir Director
Jyl Dunavan Oak Hill Worship Leader
Kendall Johnson Technical Arts Coordinator
Brad Miller Director of Discipleship and Reach
Mike Sabbann Reach Coordinator
Diana Vander Pas Director of Small Groups
Nancy Schubbe Director of Kids Ministry
Lindsey Schmidt Director of Middle School Youth Ministry
Patrick Brewer Director of High School Youth Ministry
Cindy Linert Kids Minister, Valley Creek
Sarah Dibbern Oak Hill Youth Minister / Valley Creek Kids Minister
Molly Schulze Oak Hill Kids Minister
Laura Stennes Kids & Youth Minister
Sara Mulso Director of Preschool
Lisa Schommer Preschool Business Manager
Mary Law Office Manager / Assistant to the Senior Pastor
Kandi Chavie Director of Communications / Admin. Assistant
Sunny Marshall Administrative Assistant, Database
Stacy Winter Administrative Assistant, Youth Ministries
Brian Ingram Co-Director of Custodial Services
Theresa Ingram Co-Director of Custodial Services
John Stutelberg Custodial Services

CHURCH COUNCIL

Renee Boehme President*
Ben Kehl Vice President, President-Elect+
Ann Bauman Vice President-Elect+
Evan Parkhurst Treasurer
Brian Schouvieller Secretary
Larry Hall Lead Elder*
Wade Amundson Lead Elder-Elect+
Sheryl Breiholz At Large+
Janice Jones At Large
Linda Tank At Large
Todd Watanabe At Large+
Troy Wenck At Large*
Quincy Koll 19–20 Vicar, Ex Officio
Andrew Asp 20-21 Vicar, Ex Officio
Mark Stutelberg Administrator, Ex Officio
Tom Pfotenhauer Senior Pastor, Ex Officio

*Concluded Service on Council in 2020
 +Coming on Council in 2021

ELDERS

Larry Hall Lead Elder*	John Horner	Joel Schuessler
Wade Amundson Lead Elder+	Del Howard*	Chuck Stakston
Phil Baumgarn	Frank Janssen	Phil Stebbing
Norm Berg	Jim Jensen	Tom Stork
Rod Beseman*	Duane Johnson	Dale Thompson
Craig Bettmann*	Brian Kieser	Dick Wachal
Doug Boehme	Tom Koch	Bob Wolf
Greg Carlson	Ramesh Krishnanmani	*Concluded Service on Elders in 2020
Tom Crist	Rob Krueger	+Coming on Elders in 2021
Brian Daniels	Steve Lauderbaugh	
Michael Ehnstrom	Ron Lutes	
Ron Gehring	Dan Meyer	
Steve Hall	Brian Michlitsch*	
Mike Hamann	Dan Peterson	

STAFF WE SAID GOODBYE TO

Quincy Koll Vicar
Jon Kuehne Liberty Ridge Campus Pastor

LIBERTY RIDGE CAMPUS

Liberty Ridge Elementary School
11395 Eagle View Boulevard
Woodbury, MN 55129

OAK HILL CAMPUS

9050 60th Street
Stillwater, MN 55082

VALLEY CREEK CAMPUS

7380 Afton Road
Woodbury, MN 55125
651-739-5144

