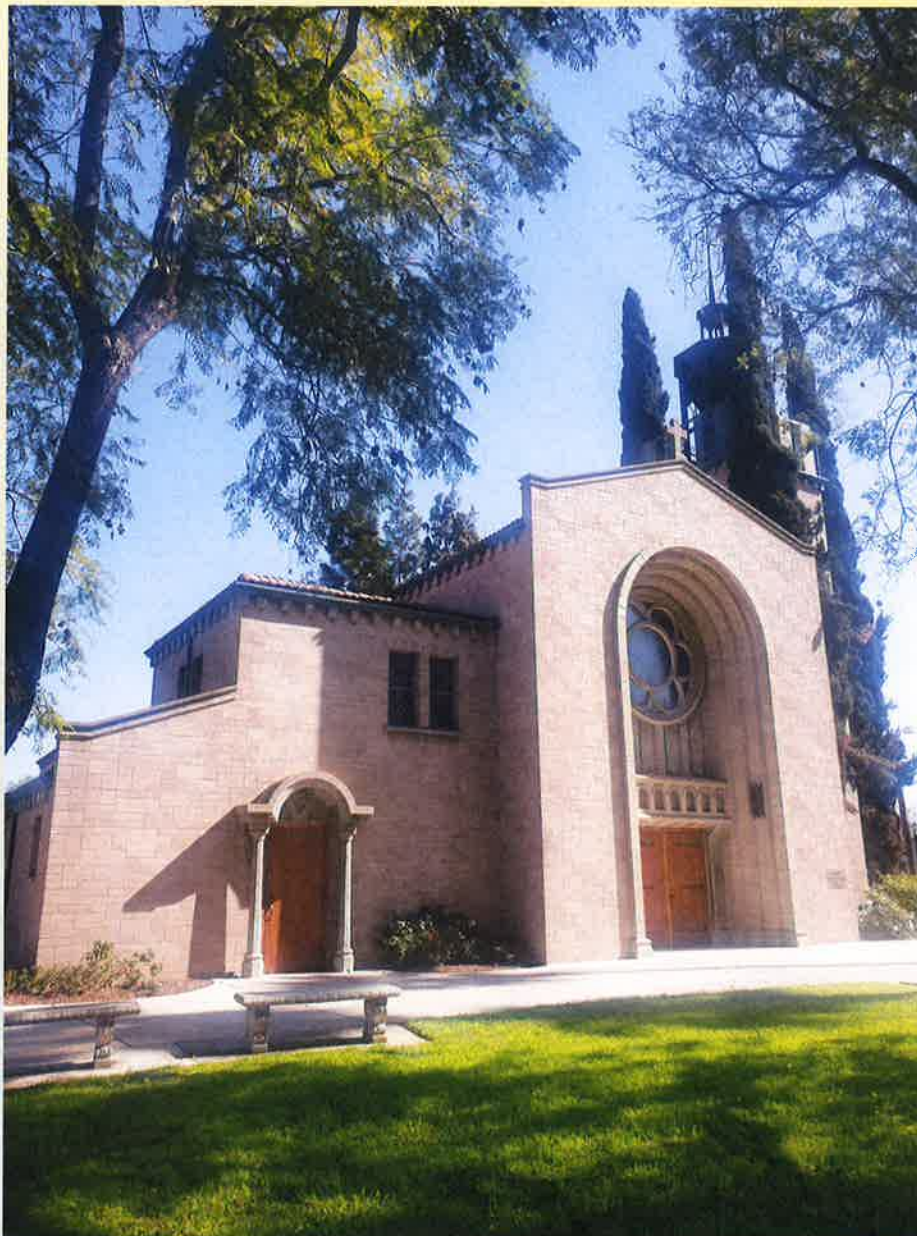


# 2021 Annual Meeting

February 21, 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2020

E D E N . L U T H E R A N C H U R C H



# Eden Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

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**EDEN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*Serving Christ and Community*

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Sunday, February 21, 2021**  
Agenda

I. Opening Prayer

II. Memorials

III. Presentation of Stephen Award

IV. Reports – please review written reports distributed via email

V. New Business

A. Delegates to Pacifica Synod Assembly

B. Service and outreach updates/discussion

VI. Closing



## *In Remembrance*



**2020**

*When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body put on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

*1 Corinthians 15:54-57*

*Bob Pring*

*Lynda McClellan*

*Almighty and Eternal God, we remember with reverence and affection our loved ones and friends whom you have called home to the Church Victorious. We thank you for their life, our memory of them, their presence among us, and the love that we were privileged to share. Keep us in union with them through faith and love toward you, and strengthen us in grace until the day when all who trust in you will behold your glory and see you face to face, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Pastor's Annual Report for 2020

Another year has passed. It has been one none of us will soon forget. Because of the onset of Covid 19 we have not been able to worship in our beautiful sanctuary since the middle of March—right in the midst of our Lenten season. Although, that did not stop us. We were still able to continue worshipping virtually as well as having a weekly Facebook recorded abbreviated service. It is not quite the same of course yet; we have been able, for the most part, to continue as a community of faith. Sadly, there have been some of our members who, because of one reason or another, have not been able to join us. That has made the mission of outreach to those we have not seen or heard from that much more crucial.

And yet; there has been quite a bit of ministry that has continued to happen in spite of our circumstances. The church office has remained open during this time to serve those of our congregation who might have needed to reach out to us. We have a church council who has been very active even in the face of meeting via zoom as many projects were entered into this year: the resurfacing of the parking lot, new fencing around the preschool, our technology in the church and the fellowship hall were upgraded, we have a new website, *edenlutheran.org*, and so much more. We were also able to reach out to some of our preschool families who were in need this Christmas and provide them with much needed food, toys for the children, and gift cards. In addition, I have preformed 4 baptisms and officiated at 3 weddings this past year. Covid has not slowed us down in that regard.

During the course of the year I have still been giving out the \$25.00 Stater Bros food cards. I gave out more than 60 cards this year along with hygiene packs which were put together by our Helping Hands ministry—primarily Schera and James. These hygiene packs included pocket pray quilts which were made by Barbara Young. We also received a Matthew 25 outreach grant of \$750 from the synod again this year. This grant supplies us with funds for the food cards, hygiene packs, and gives us monies for the preschool by which they can purchase food for their children.

I continue to be the dean of the Raincross Conference. As dean we have monthly meetings with the bishop. As dean I coordinate monthly meetings for our 13 Raincross pastors. I am also a member of the Pacifica Synod synod council. That requires a commitment to quarterly meetings as well as a retreat and meetings before synod assembly. With Covid we were unable to have our retreat nor did we have our meeting before the synod assembly (which was not held) although we did have our quarterly meetings via zoom. I also meet with the Downtown Riverside pastors on a monthly basis. This clergy group has been a great source of support during these past months as it is somewhat encouraging to know that we all have had some pretty significant struggles as we endeavor to shepherd our congregations during this rough period of time.

As you may imagine my work has changed quite a bit over the course of the past year. My schedule was rather varied I worked from home a bit and I climbed a rather steep technology learning curve. I believe I worked as many if not more hours this year than in the past because of the coordination and planning that was involved with our new way of being.

I continue as the licensee for the preschool. This year the preschool board and Dar, our director, were tasked with the job of trying to do what we could to keep our preschool open in light of Covid. Our

preschool staff have done a fabulous job of keeping our children safe and the preschool is thriving in spite of the pandemic. As of the writing of this annual report, thanks be to God, we currently have a waiting list for students who would like to enrolled in our preschool.

Last but not least as for personal self-care, which I generally do not mention, I want to be honest; I do not believe that I have not been doing a very good job of that this past year. My goal is to be more diligent in that regard in 2021. I do appreciate your concern and kind words of encouragement as this has certainly been a rough time for us all.

I am confident that 2021 will be better and that at some point we will be able to return to our sanctuary in some way, shape, or form. We do now have the ability to live stream from the sanctuary so that is another avenue we will be exploring as time goes by. I am also confident that we have some wonderful leaders in our church who will continue doing an excellent job of moving Eden forward into the future.

God is in our midst of that we can be assured.

My hopes and prayers are with you all for a blessed 2021,

Pastor Linda

## President's Annual Report 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How Blessed are we? Many of us have seen the pictures from the Anderson's during their internship in West Virginia. Some of us even likely can truly empathize with the bleak mid-winter and the enduring gray and snow fall. And then there are others of us who actually drive up to the mountains intentionally to play in the stuff. I am clearly not that person any more but, so glad the opportunity exists for all who seek it. Why would I start my message this way? Because I hope it inspires you as it does me to think about sharing my faith with others. I don't see it as something to dread or a burden to endure but, as a blessing, an opportunity to give others that same access to live saving GRACE.

As we read and reflect on the year that was like few others – COVID20 and head into the season of Lent – let us look to this as the season to continue planting the seeds of His love and give thanks for all we have been able to do this year, in spite of it being the year that it was. Thank you to Pastor Linda, David, Sarah and the Dar and the preschool teachers. Thank you to each of the council members and to all who volunteer doing the Messenger, counting, grounds and property repair and protection, and so much more. Please as you have ideas or concerns bring them up to the council members we are here to listen and to serve you as we all in the family of faith called Eden Serve Christ and Community. Provide input to the committee working on our plans for the future or even consider joining that group.

We have accomplished the known projects that were necessary for us to fully steward the house of worship and property called Eden Lutheran Church. The fence has secured our church/fellowship hall/school quad. The dead trees are gone. The technology is installed and will soon provide us with the ability to livestream and record services in the sanctuary. The technology is updated in the fellowship hall so that when we gather all will be able to see and hear presentations. A new website and much easier access. And we are growing ever closer to being able to truly report our finances and make plans from good data. And we were blessed to have the Preschool remain open the entire year. And the beneficence of the PPP money helped both the church and school budgetarily.

So, yes, like all of you I truly miss the hugs, the singing of our beloved hymns, sharing the potlucks and so much more of what makes us Lutherans... but, praise the Lord we are still gathering via Zoom, Facebook, calls, etc. Thank you for continuing to support the church and one another and may we soon be able to come back together reinvigorated to worship together and to Serve Christ and Community.

May God Continue to Bless Eden and each of you.

## Annual Treasurer's Report 2020

### Eden Lutheran Church

The annual Financial and Expenses report for 2020 has \$286,504.10 in Income and \$409,806.88 in expenses, a short fall of \$123,303.

The Statement of Assets and Liabilities shows balances for the saving and checking items. As of 1-2021 the Church has \$68,8657.31 in liquid assets; \$18672.33 in a CD and the ELCA investment fund of \$634,911.55 (a withdrawal of \$30,000 was used to cover parking lot repair expenses, a withdrawal of \$20,000 was done in 2021).

Our offering income continues to decline, which reflects our changing congregation. The Helen Crum Trust Funds continue to be source for needed expenditures.

We have outside income sources that are needed to cover expenses – Independent Options (rental income) and BIC - \$100 increases for 2020), BIC. Cell tower and the Eden Preschool expense reimbursement.

Much of 2020 was spent trying to get a better and clearer reports on our income and expenses, QuickBooks reports remain a problem. Much gratitude to Gene Maas and Sarah Cooney in resolving our financial status issues.

The Finance Ministry has a great group helping with the church finances. Our Monday counters do the weekly counters reports and bank deposits – Erv Seidel, Larry Subriar and Ron Sinclair. Norma Maas keeps up our giving records and provides statements Aided by Patty Grefe when Norma is out of town. Sarah Cooney now keeps up our books and reports. Our monthly finance meetings include Pastor Brown, Gene Maas, Chuck Wilson, Marge Steinbrinck and Lyle Hodgerson.

The Financial Income and Expense report and the Church balance sheet are attached.

Respectively,

Lyle Hodgerson, Treasurer



## QUILTERS REPORT 2020

Due to the pandemic, the quilters have not met together since the end of February. However, this has not stopped Barbara Young, May Givens and Esther D'Aguiar from continuing to work at home. This break has enabled Barbara to design the tops and May to serge and complete all of the flannel quilts for the pre-school gifts. May and Barbara continue to cut squares and sew tops together while Esther has been batting them. Needless to say, we DO have a huge current inventory of 60 x 80 quilts to put yarn in and tie. This list was compiled as of 12-31-20 so amounts have changed since then.

During 2020 we donated the following:

60 x 80 quilts	21
Prayer quilts	5
50 x 50 Size	3
<b>Baby Quilts</b>	<b>32</b>

Completed Inventory on hand

60 x 80	22
Prayer Quilts	19

Ready to batt

60 x 80	30
50 x 50	33
Baby	28

Batted and ready to put in yarn and tie

60 x 60	60
Baby	2

At this point, we do not plan on meeting in the near future, due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,  
May Givens  
For the Quilting Ladies

## **Worship and Music Annual Report 2020**

The Worship and Music Ministry members include Pastor Linda Brown, Cathy Carlson, Nicolette Rohr, Jay Fiene, Schera Harner and Chair Harvey Clark. Our mission is to assist in and encourage the development of the worship life of the congregation and to see that the services of God's house are conducted regularly in accordance with the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

At the beginning of this past year a bid of less than \$20,000 was submitted to Council for approval of the repair of selected stained glass windows. That work has been completed ensuring the durability of those windows.

With the pandemic, the effort to come up with a new Supplemental Hymnal that would be larger to allow for larger type where the current type is hard to read and correct errors in the current edition has been on hold.

Lenten Soup Suppers had just gotten started when the pandemic suspended indoor worship and gatherings. Thanks to Nicolette Rohr for introducing us to Zoom which enabled us to have a semblance of worship on Sundays as well as having committee meetings without risking spreading the virus.

Worship and Music pursued a new projector and sound system that includes a video camera system that will work from the balcony. Thanks to Jay Fiene for his efforts to identify our needs, obtain bids, Council approval, and Congregational approval on a new system. This is now installed and we plan to use it in the near future for Sanctuary recorded services and eventually live streaming.

Several times during the year there was discussion of In-person or Parking lot worship. We did a survey of the Congregation. Following this, it was generally agreed to stay with our Zoom and Facebook format. Considering the surge that happened in the summer and fall we would have been bouncing back and forth if we had tried to open up.

Pastor Linda has been offering Communion to those who come to the Church office at selected times.

In His Service,  
The Worship and Music Ministry Members

## Property Report

There were two contracts for the removal and trimming of trees on the property. One to cut back palm trees, and a cypress tree that was a concern for the neighbors. The second contract to cut down the dead Redwood tree that was in front of the fellowship hall and a dead tree behind the parsonage house. Also, two of the olive trees were removed from the side of the church near the T-mobile electrical room.

A wrought iron fence has been installed to enclose the pre-school because of the homeless issue as they were causing property damage, turning off the main water for the church and leaving unnecessary items on the grounds that could harm others. Panic bars on the gates help the teachers flee the school if necessary but also prevent the homeless from getting in. So far, the new security gates have been highly successful.

Parking lot was resurfaced, stripped and oil coated.

Ron and Erv have been trimming trees themselves, picking up trash almost daily. There were a ton of clothes and items found in encampments hidden on the property. We had Athens pick up 4 full dumpster loads of items that the guys removed.

Shelves were installed in the Conex box.

T-mobile has been doing upgrades on the tower and Ron was here almost every single day and most late nights letting them in and being available to them for a month. Along with working with the audio and visual people in the church.

Sprinklers have been an ongoing issue, but we have taken care of the issues as they come.

## Eden Lutheran School Annual Report 2020

Eden Lutheran Preschool had a memorable 2020. Our average enrollment was 20 students with an average full time equivalency (FTE) of 17.

In the middle of March, COVID19 swept through the world. Although the staff and board decided to keep the school open, all operating policies and procedures needed to change with the circumstances. The staff decided to split up extra chores and vote on instantaneous decisions while the board stayed aware and willing to help..

The school was unable to celebrate traditions that the staff, parents and children count on and enjoy. All activities that involved parent participation were cancelled or altered to involve only staff. Parents brought all necessary supplies three days in advance to avoid contamination. We still had our Holiday parties, but our beloved Christmas and Graduation programs were cancelled. Eden Lutheran Church and its members helped several Preschool families at Christmas. Families that were experiencing hardships were given gifts and food to help them through the holidays. Each child in the school was given a beautiful handmade quilt, a key for Santa, candy in a custom made pouch and a new book. The children were so excited to receive their gifts from the Church.

Most of our fundraisers were also cancelled this year. The only fundraiser we were able to keep was the Shop Riverside Discount Cards. The church members purchased most of them and made our only fundraiser successful again.

Due to COVID19 the preschool received assistance from community sources. The County's Child Care Consortium donated lots of toys and other learning materials geared toward dealing with stress, emotional trauma and racial issues. We were given payroll relief by a PPP loan/grant. The teachers were also given financial assistance from the Child Care Consortium and the School Board.

Eden Lutheran Preschool has a very motivated School Board. The School Board includes the Chairperson, Pat Sinclair, the Vice Chairperson, Erv Seidel, the Secretary, Lyle Hodgerson and the Licensee, Pastor Linda Brown. These are also the Executive School Board members. The preschool is represented by the director, Darlene Keaneman and two parents, Sarah Cooney and Ashley Lewis. Eden Lutheran Church members are Chuck Wilson, Larry Subriar and Katie Williams. This board was created to govern policy but during 2020, the board was extremely supportive of the staff and always available to help.

This last year was difficult, but the staff Eden Lutheran Preschool felt supported and appreciated thanks to the Eden Lutheran School Board and Eden Lutheran Church.

## Helping Hands

Due to the covid lockdown, we have been making hygiene packs for pastor as she needs them. Working with LSS on a container storage project at Trinity, still in early planning stages as of now. Some Scrip sales have taken place around Christmas, it's been slow due to the Covid-19 problem.

James Sansom

Scherra Harner

## Eden Lutheran Church Women (ELCW) Annual Report for 2020

2020 board: President - Marge Steinbrinck, Vice President - Schera Harner, Treasurer - Carole Hodgerson, Secretary - Nicolette Rohr, Publicity Chair - Susan Downer

**Purpose Statement:** *As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.*

Most of the plans ELCW had for 2020 were not possible due to the pandemic. We had three board meetings and a General Meeting January 19 before suspending in-person activities. In addition to circle meetings, we had scheduled dine out fundraisers, a spring program and tea with Trinity, Hope, and Grace, a fall field trip to the Scandinavian Christmas market at the Danish Lutheran Church and Cultural Center in Yorba Linda, and another Christmas café and bake sale planned for Santa Lucia Sunday. Perhaps some of this can resume in 2021.

Our regular expenses of coffee and kitchen and quilting supplies have been reduced during the pandemic, as has our income due to the lack of collections and fundraisers.

We continue to support the work of Women of the ELCA in the Pacifica Synod, nationwide, and around the world through our offerings. We also support local organizations including the Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center, Alternatives to Domestic Violence, Central City Lutheran Mission, and Lutheran Social Services.

We remember Lynda McClellan, who served as delegate to the last Pacifica WELCA meeting in November 2019 and was a devoted WELCA member for many years.

We share this prayer from the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**A call to prayer in the time of a pandemic** *(to be practiced every Tuesday at noon)*

For those who are ill

For those with little access to healthcare

For healthcare workers

For those who feel isolated

For those who are in unsafe places

For those who are anxious or worried

For leaders facing difficult decisions

For those who continue to work in challenging settings

For those driven by greed or careless disregard

*Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:39).*

*How are you loving yourself today? How are you loving your neighbor today?*

For we will rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give thanks in all circumstances.

*(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).*