



Shepherd
OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Report

January 30, 2022

“A Growing Church for Growing People”

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

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Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

Annual Meeting

January 30, 2022

(Virtual and In Person)

I. Call to Order

II. Quorum Call

III. Opening Prayer

IV. Looking Back

1. Approval of Minutes from January 31, 2021
2. Approval of Committee and Ministry Reports
3. Approval of 2021 Financial Reports

V. Greeting from Bishop Jeffrey Clements (Video)

Presiding Bishop of the Northern IL Synod, ELCA

VI. Looking Ahead

1. Purpose, Vision Statement and Strategic Directions
2. Call Committee Update
3. Staffing Introductions

VII. Elections

1. Election of Voting Members to the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly
 - Jessie Buesing
 - Donna Kelly
 - The Rev. Bill Waxenberg
1. Election of Council Members
 - Kathy McGuine
 - Sarah Wolf (second three year term)

VIII. Approval of 2022 Budget

IX. Closing Prayer

X. Adjournment



Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting
January 31, 2021

1. Call to Order
2. Quorum Call
3. Opening Prayer
4. Looking Back
 - a. Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2020
 - i. Motion-Kathy McGuine, Second-Ed Cuttle
 1. Approved
 - b. Approval of Committee and Ministry Reports
 - i. Motion-Mike Luecht, Second-Marlene Boehler
 1. Approved
 - c. Approval of 2020 Financial Reports
 - i. Review of finances provided by Cliff Dungey
 - ii. Thank you to Sue Wehnes for her commitment and dedication to overseeing the financial contributions given to SOTP for over 15 years.
 - iii. Motion-Ralph Wehnes, Second-George Sebastian
 1. Approved
 - d. Recognition of Outgoing Council Member-Cliff Dungey
5. Looking Ahead
 - a. Purpose Statement, Guiding Principles and Strategic Directions
 - i. New Purpose Statement: “A Growing Church for Growing People”
 - b. Call Committee Update
 - i. Mike McCann will chair the call committee as we begin the search for a second pastor.
 - c. Staffing Instructions
 - i. Pastor Mark thanked staff members for their commitment and dedication to SOTP.
6. Vote to approve revised Constitution
 - a. Motion-Carolyn Cuttle, Second-Sue Wehnes
 - i. Approved
7. Congregation Vote to approve the establishment of a Memorial Garden at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church.
 - a. Motion-Sue Wehnes, Second-Carolyn Cuttle
 - i. Approved
8. Elections
 - a. Election of New Council Members
 - i. Nominees
 1. Cheryl Adams
 2. Bob Mollis
 3. Joyce Shotick
 - ii. No nominees from the floor.
 1. Approved

9. Approval of 2021 Budget

- a. Bob Mollis thanked everyone involved with the finance team at SOTP.
- b. Bob reviewed the 2021 budget.
 - i. Member Contributions 2021-budgeted at 5% growth
 - ii. Loose plate offerings were difficult this year with the church being closed and less new members.-\$25,000 decrease
 - iii. Giving 10% to the ELCA Northern Illinois Synod
 - iv. Local Mission-benevolence payment for local missions is given in addition to other contributions
 - v. Youth Ministry-Kurtis Arndt and Bob McDuffee-Planning for growth in the youth ministry this year. Budgeted \$3,300 more for this year.
 - vi. Staffing ministry-Unable to give increases last year but will be able to this year at 1.5%. Pastors will be compensated at the 2020 levels.
 - vii. \$19,000 is being set aside for reserves (items needing repair over time)
 - viii. \$13,000 remaining in the budget
 - ix. Motion-Carol Waxenberg, Second-Ed Cuttle
 1. Approved

10. Closing Prayer

11. Adjournment

Pastor's Report to the Congregation

*To Timothy, my loyal child in the faith: Grace, mercy,
and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
—1 Timothy 1:2*

Grace, mercy and peace...if one were to ask what our deliverables might be in the church, these three would be a great place to start. In this Annual Report you will find evidence of these three throughout. I encourage you to read the report and discover all that God has been up to through all of us at SOTP.

Presumably Paul wrote these words to his dear friend Timothy. They had been apart for some time while both Paul and Timothy were doing work to spread the Gospel. Paul, maybe in Rome and Timothy in Ephesus.

The church was on fire in Ephesus. Many were coming to faith, and for the first time in a community both Jews and Gentiles were finding themselves together in worship. Paul writes this letter to Timothy to encourage his ministry and challenge God's people to lives of service.

Through the ages, God's people have traveled, through trials and tribulations to carry the message of grace, mercy and peace forward.

That message of hope was kindled in a faithful few who gathered for a Bible study at a retired pastor's home. Through the study of God's word, it was decided to establish a worshiping community serving the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago in town named Huntley.

Twenty years later we continue to share grace, mercy and peace!

Thank you for your faithful service through Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church.

In this past year I have been so thankful to the faithful here who continue to so passionately live their lives of faith.

I encourage and challenge one and all to get plugged into the ministry we share in at SOTP. God has given us some great tools in our life together. They are **P**rayer, **W**orship, **R**eading the Bible, **S**erving in and through the church, **R**elating to one another in small groups (7's) and **G**iving generously. Don't wait for someone to get you plugged in....take the initiative, come off the sidelines and get onto the playing field of ministry with us.

With a thankful heart I am grateful to members of our congregation council who continue to so faithfully serve as visionaries for SOTP's future.

With a thankful heart I am grateful to our staff who continue to invite people into lives of service through the church.

With a thankful heart I am grateful for so many who give so generously of themselves in time, talent and treasure to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth.

In a nutshell, it continues to be such a marvelous privilege of mine to serve alongside all of you in this special place, Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church. We have great adventures to look forward to in this new year.

As I close this report, I know many of you continue to go through great struggles as you journey through these pandemic days. A few weeks ago, someone asked me, "pastor how should I be praying for the needs of my family and friends". Here was my reply, "pray for grace, mercy and peace."

Pastor's Report to the Congregation (*cont*)

Just a reminder....

Grace is the unearned gifts God gives. The Lord relates to us only by grace, and so should we in our relationships with others. God's grace provided salvation though we do not deserve it. (Eph. 2:8). God's grace blesses us with the riches of heaven. God's grace brings us peace in troublesome times. God's grace brings us good things every day (1 Tim. 1:14).

Mercy is God withholding what we deserve because of our sinfulness. The consequences of our sin is death, yet Jesus paid the price for us (Rom. 6:23). God is merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love ***and so should we in our care for others.***

Peace is the state of mind and heart we experience when we are confident of God's grace and mercy toward us. Peace comes in knowing that God's grace will sustain us, even in our most difficult crises (Phil. 4:7). God assures us that even when we fail in our commitments to Him, God will show mercy upon us, and so should we show mercy. This blessed assurance gives us peace.

The peace God gives is different from the peace the world offers (John 14:27). The world seeks to sedate us from the problems we face through counseling or drugs or temporary pleasures. The peace God gives goes right to the soul, relieving the heart and mind.

How are you praying for those close to you? In your family, family of friends and your church family, for what are you praying. There could be no better request than asking the Lord to give an abundance of grace, mercy, and peace.

Thankfully,

—*Pastor Mark*



SOTP's first Eagle Scout



What they don't teach you
in seminary.

Pastor Mark Boster
(*Taking star off of
outdoor pine tree.*)

Director of Adult Education

*“The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.”*
Isaiah 50:4

The above verse from the prophet Isaiah is a heavy load to carry—for anyone! But this is what teachers are called to do—not only to teach, to impart knowledge, to be open to questions, but to lift up, to build up, to sustain. Hopefully that has been done during this past year.

2021 began the way 2020 ended: with the absence of in-person classes. In their place, we taped sessions which could be viewed on-line. When we renewed in-person learning in September, we continued recording each week which allows us to reach more people with our weekly Bible studies.

We began the year by exploring the variety of metaphors the biblical writers have used for God: potter, rock or fortress, servant, mother, warrior, and host. Then, during Lent, we looked at the variety of laments found in the Psalms: individual, community, laments of revenge (not nice but in the Bible!), as well as the hymns of lament in our worship book. We concluded with God’s own laments (that’s in the Bible too!) We shifted gears during the Easter season, going from Lenten laments to psalms and hymns of praise (an appropriate theme for Easter), again reading individual songs of praise, those of the community, as well as biblical stories of praise.

September brought with it the opportunity to meet in-person once again! So, our Sunday and Wednesday classes resumed, although the numbers in each were a bit lower than in previous years. We began with a study of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, emphasizing that the Gospel, the Good News, includes the church. Following that, we did an introduction to the Gospel according to Luke, our primary gospel for 2022.

I’m so grateful for all those who’ve either attended our classes this fall or who have been joining us online for almost two years now. Thank you! And I can’t begin to express my deep appreciation for the partnership of Mike Yndestad who brings his amazing recording skills to the task week after week.

—*Pastor Bill Waxenberg*

Teaching Pastor



Human Resources

HR Committee Annual Report

After being re-established in mid-2020, the HR Committee completed its first full-year cycle in 2021.

An overview of 2021 accomplishments includes:

- A review of 2020 employee performance was conducted as well as goal setting for the 2021 year. The HR Team is taking an iterative approach to these processes, going from very little structure to more robust versions year over year.
- Employee files were audited, brought up to compliant levels and moved to an electronic record-keeping system.
- Several key positions were successfully filled including a new Operations Manager, Little Lambs Assistant and Youth Intern.
- A comprehensive review of the Employee Handbook was conducted, and a new version published with a January 1, 2022 effective date. This document will provide important governance to SOTP employees as we continue to grow.
- Employees benefits were reviewed, and amendments were made primarily to paid time off to provide market-competitive offerings where SOTP is able.
- Employees were provided communications confirming their position specifics including expected work schedule, hours, legal status, and other specifics which were previously unclear. This will help greatly with budgeting alignment.
- An annual HR calendar was established to guide process timing throughout the year.

Each of these efforts is not meant to be a one-time event but an on-going review and adaption of employee related policies, procedures, and cultural alignment to best serve the vision and mission of the church and its resources as we grow.

Attracting and retaining the best talent for SOTP is the goal of the HR Committee and we look forward to supporting the church in this endeavor in the coming year.

We welcome your thoughts and feedback at any time.

—*Lindsay Sparks, Cheryl Adams, Mike Luecht*
SOTP HR Committee

Youth and Family

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The Youth and Family Ministry Team continues to plan, execute and lead activities, events and ministry activities for students in 6th – 12th grades.

Confirmation Program:

SOTP had 14 students participate in their Affirmation of Baptism ceremony, held this year on Oct 31 (Reformation Sunday) during the 10:45 service. Each student attended our ‘Who Am I?’ event on Oct 2nd where they were introduced to the Faith Statement writing process by several leaders who shared their own Faith Stories as well as opportunities for some fun using Team Building activities throughout the evening. These students then finished writing their Faith Statements throughout the month of October prior to Confirmation Sunday. Our Youth Team Leaders are extremely impressed with the Faith Statements written this year.



In Sept, we began our Confirmation Program with 40 6th – 8th grade students registered. We meet Wednesday nights from 6:30 – 8:00 with everyone gathering in the Fellowship Hall for an activity and large group lesson. Students then break into their small groups and spend ~30 minutes reviewing the lesson and building relationships with their leader and students within their group. The fall session has focused on Old Testament lessons and we look forward to exploring the New Testament and Luther’s Catechism during the spring session.

Special thanks to our Large Group Leader Tim Torkelson and Small Group Leaders Carrie McCabe, Ron Mudge, Josh Harding, Jason Brown, Seth McCulloch, Kara Burg, Grace Boster, Marissa Rojas and Jeffry DeLong for their dedication and commitment to our confirmands.

High School Youth Group:

The HS Youth Group meets on Thursday nights from 7PM – 9PM where we spend time building relationships, participate in group activities and have a lesson led by our intern, Becca Colson. Becca attends Judson University and will lead our Thursday night group through the spring session. We are extremely excited to average double digit attendees on a regular basis. We encourage any students in 9-12th grades to reach out with any questions, or join us any time.



The Youth and Family Team is extremely grateful to Kurtis Arndt who served as an intern from the fall of 2020 thru June 2021, leading our youth group and planning & leading our 2021 Mission Trip. His dedication and leadership were a welcome addition to our team throughout his internship.

2021 Highlights:

- **SIMPLICITY MISSION TRIP:** 13 HS students and 4 chaperones left June 13 for a week in Cedar Lake, IN serving others in the Valparaiso area. The students and chaperones served at a Food Pantry, completed home repairs, bonded together as they cleared debris and then completed the 3 Dunes Challenge at Indiana Dunes National Park. These students had daily devotionals, conducted evening worship for the group, learned a lot about themselves and each other throughout the week.
- HS Youth and volunteers hosted a Bag & Bingo Event on June 5th to raise funds for our Mission Trip. Many members of the church enjoyed an afternoon of Bags competition and playing Bingo.
- Feed My Starving Children Service Event: 30 volunteers packed almost 13,000 meals for children around the world on March 30th.
- Green Trees: 7 students and 2 chaperones helped clear debris and shrubs on Oct 17 at Green Trees

We look forward to 2021 and our continued work to help make Christ known to the youth of SOTP.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Bob McDuffee*

Operations Manager

2021 has been an uplifting year in regards to the operational side at Shepherd of the Prairie. Working collaboratively with SOTP staff and council, we have been able to update and enhance a lot of our current processes in HR, facilities, and communications.

I have felt very welcomed by staff, volunteers, and congregation here at SOTP and am thankful for the dedication to the church that everyone shows on a daily basis. The environment is infectious and I truly believe that it is sparking conversation not only here at SOTP, but also in the community.

I am pleased to report that during 2021, the following goals were accomplished:

- Employee Handbook
 - Reviewed, revised, renewed
 - Time tracking and benefits tracking enhanced
 - Clarification of roles and responsibilities communicated
- Little Lambs Pre-School
 - Up and running safely after a year off due to Covid
- Transition of our Youth Intern for Youth Group
 - Successful transition of leadership in our Youth Internship Position to ensure effective programming
- Facility Usage
 - Analysis done of how the facility is being used by the community along with how frequently different parts of our facility are being used
 - Community usage of our facility was found to be at an all time high
 - A new facility usage guide/agreement has been finalized to ensure all details are covered and updated on a regular basis in regards to facility usage
- LIGHT Group Involvement
 - The LIGHT Group from Huntley High School District is back for their third season of helping out with different tasks around the church that help them strengthen life skills for employment
- IT Enhancement
 - New partnerships formed to create a more safe and secure network for employees and soon to come ministries of the church
- Finance Policy Review
 - Our Treasurer, Accounting Administrator, and myself have begun to review and improve the Finance Policy
- Open Door Policy
 - I have made it a point to encourage relationship building by keeping my door open for anyone who may want to talk while I am here at the church



As I look forward into 2022, my plan is to continue to take ideas from volunteers, staff, and congregation members to improve the overall operations here at the church. I also plan to begin networking out in the community more to continue to bring the best innovation to processes here at SOTP. I thank everyone for the support and look forward to a very successful year in 2022!

—*Matt Morrison*
Operations Manager

Congregational Council Report

The Congregational Council is so blessed to serve the Lord and also the caring and faithful congregation at Shepherd of the Prairie. Our focus from the start of the year was to be a team that understood the important role we had in governance and to do God's work with a spirit of joy. Every member of the council played an important role in this occurring, and I am so grateful to be with them as we achieved many objectives this past year.

The council took the Vision that was agreed to and quickly moved to strategically organizing the objectives to achieve that Vision. Here are some of the focus points that the council had this year. We redesigned how capital projects were requested and approved, we reimagined the Operations Manager's position and filled the position, we emphasized human resources and the quality of our staff's work experience, we focused on advancing technologies and data security, we emphasized our children and youth programming, and we very much focused on how we can support the continued quality in our worship and all of our ministries. Solid communication throughout Shepherd of the Prairie was an immediate priority and will continue to be.

On a personal level, I pause often and think of our staff and their commitment. I also have witnessed the countless hours of service that so many volunteers give of themselves throughout the church. I know with God's hand continuing to guide Shepherd of the Prairie, we all will continue to grow in our faith journey, help others in their journey, and collectively make an impact in the future of our community and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Mike Luecht*

Congregational Council President

Finance Team

The Finance Team is responsible for overseeing the daily, monthly, and year-end financial activities of the Church. Our 2021 Team members were Devin Burg, John Throckmorton, Bill Nesta, Cliff Dungey, Melanie Chesney (Accounting Administrator), Sue Wehnes and Bob Mollis (Finance Chair/Congregation Treasurer).

Your Finance Team monitors all financial activities and meets monthly to review the Church's financial reports. We report monthly to the Church Council with our analysis of the Church's financial position as well as any financial recommendations we think appropriate. We are responsible for the preparation of the annual budget and the monitoring of our actual financial activities against that budget. Financial policy and procedure recommendations are submitted to the Church Council for approval to improve cost control and financial processes.

We are also responsible for managing the Church's Mortgage Service fund, maintaining adequate reserves for the maintenance of our building, periodically reviewing the insurance coverage and policies, reviewing contracts for services, being alert to compliance issues, and assisting with an audit of the Church's accounting records.

In 2021, total General Fund Member Contributions increased by \$19,986 compared to 2020. COVID-19 continued to restrict public worship, which in turn affected both our attendance and contributions. The total General Fund contributions were \$767,562 compared to a budget projection of \$781,370. This income short fall was offset by Council and Ministry staff controlling expenses. The 2021 General Fund expenses were \$763,257 against a proposed 2021 General Fund budget of \$781,370. This leaves a positive year to date balance of \$4,305 in the General Fund to carry forward to 2022.

You will find our 2021 financial reports and 2022 budget enclosed elsewhere in this annual report.

Other specific financial team accomplishments during 2021 included: Tracking, recording, and obtaining final forgiveness of the Payroll Protection Program through the Federal Governments SBA. Re-negotiating the office copy machine equipment lease. Updating the online electronic giving process and procedures. Creating a staff/vendor ACH payment and Petty Cash policy and procedure. Creating and managing two new restricted funds around construction of a new Storage Garage and the construction and long-term maintenance of the Memory Garden Columbarium. Creation of an interest-bearing account for the restricted SOTP Endowment fund.

Please join the Finance team in thanking Linda Dungey for her dedication, service, and knowledge in her role as the Financial Contribution Secretary. Linda volunteers her time to record all members estimate of giving records and donations. She also generates the members quarterly giving statements and annual giving reports. Please reach out to Linda and thank her for her dedication and service.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Bob Mollis*

Finance Team Chairman

2021 Year End Treasurer's Report

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve you this past year as your Church Treasurer and Council Member. The Church Treasurer is the financial officer, responsible for general oversight of all SOTP finances including income, expenditures, signing checks, and reporting to Church Council on the overall financial condition of the church. Our congregation was again faithful and generous in providing resources in 2021 for our ministries and activities during the restrictive Covid-19 pandemic.

I would like to thank Linda Dungey for her service as Contribution Secretary; she has devoted many hours to ensuring that donations are correctly accounted for. I would also like to thank our Accounting Administrator, Melanie Chesny for keeping our financial records accurate during the year. They both have made my job as Treasurer very straight forward and easy.

As of the end of the year our Fund Balances are as follows:

Fund Name	2021 Amt.	2020 Amt.	Change
General Fund	\$297,439	\$196,796	\$100,643
Restricted Reserves	\$130,100	\$124,146	\$ 5,954
Temporary Restricted	\$139,650	\$ 77,577	\$ 62,073
Endowment	\$ 12,093	\$ 12,062	\$ 31
Mortgage Services	\$ 67,440	\$ 63,049	\$ 4,391

MIF Loan (Mortgage Services) decreased by \$103,175.

The Finance Team prepared a very thorough and conservative 2022 operating budget which the Council approved and is submitting for your review and approval.

Respectively Submitted,

Bob Mollis

Congregation Treasurer

2021 Financial Reports

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church - Huntley IL
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2021

Friday, January 7, 2022

Page 1 of 2

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
Assets		
Current Assets		
1.100.000	Heartland Bank Checking	593,837.32
1.100.100	Petty Cash	500.00
1.200.000	Mission Plus Building Fund Checking	67,439.60
1.200.100	Mission Investment Fixed Term	10,000.00
1.250.000	HBT/LPL Investment Account	422.38
	Total Current Assets	\$672,199.30
Fixed Assets		
1.300.000	Building & Grounds	7,203,136.61
1.300.100	Garage Building	41,717.68
1.500.000	Donations Holding Account	2,467.80
	Total Fixed Assets	\$7,247,322.09
	Total Assets	\$7,919,521.39
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
2.000.000	Accounts Payable/Vendors	3,845.62
2.100.000	Prepaid General Fund Pledges	23,350.00
2.110.000	Prepaid Mortgage Service Pledges	750.00
	Total Current Liabilities	\$27,945.62
Long Term Liabilities		
2.200.200	MIF Commercial Loan Payable	3,330,572.25
	Total Long Term Liabilities	\$3,330,572.25
	Total Liabilities	\$3,358,517.87
Fund Balances & Equity		
Unrestricted Fund Balances		
3.100.000	General Fund Balance	297,438.64
	Total Unrestricted Fund Balances	\$297,438.64
Temporary Restricted Fund Balances		
3.170.000	Special Services Fund Balance	5,519.75
3.175.000	Memorial Fund Balance	11,361.94
3.180.000	Grafton Food Pantry Fund Balance	140.00
3.220.000	AV Ministry Fund Balance	(29.49)
3.250.000	Good Samaritan Fund Balance	10,056.95
3.260.000	Community Outreach Fund Balance	3,863.00
3.270.000	Holiday Flowers Balance	(514.07)
3.300.000	<i>Music Ministry Fund Balance</i>	
3.330.000	Adult Music Ministry Fund Balance	15,485.52
3.332.000	Artist Series Balance	13,353.75
3.345.000	Childrens Music Ministry Fund Balance	1,150.00
	<i>Total Music Ministry Fund Balance</i>	<i>\$29,989.27</i>
3.350.000	Prairie Crafters Fund Balance	485.00
3.360.000	Miscellaneous Fund Balance	1,225.00
3.380.000	Continuing Education Fund Balance	1,891.00

2021 Financial Reports *(cont)*

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church - Huntley IL
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2021

Friday, January 7, 2022	Page 2 of 2
Account #	YTD Balance
<hr/>	
3.400.000	<i>Youth Ministry Fund Balance</i>
3.415.000	Youth Ministry Balance 2,689.19
3.417.000	Youth Mission Trips Balance 9,448.24
3.421.000	Youth Scholarship Balance 763.01
3.422.000	Operation Christmas Child Balance 157.28
3.423.000	Confirmation Retreat Fund Balance (450.00)
	<i>Total Youth Ministry Fund Balance \$12,607.72</i>
3.500.000	Little Lambs Fund Balance 4,692.87
3.600.000	Prayer Shawl Ministry Fund Balance 284.76
3.650.000	Quilters Ministry Fund Balance 1,276.82
3.675.000	Memory Garden Balance 13,160.13
3.676.000	Memory Garden Bricks Balance 3,319.07
3.677.000	Memory Garden Niche Balance 39,393.00
3.680.000	Garage Fund Balance (8,767.68)
3.700.000	Disaster Relief Fund Balance 915.00
3.711.000	Community Communication Development Plan Fund 1,500.00
3.725.000	Miscellaneous Outside Charities Balance 1,010.00
3.750.000	Seminary Scholarship Fund Balance 6,270.00
	Total \$139,650.04
3.140.000	Mortgage Service Balance 67,439.60
	Total Temporary Restricted Fund Balances \$207,089.64
<i>Reserves</i>	
3.950.000	Barnabas Reserves Fund Balance 2,612.08
3.971.000	Roof Repairs/Replacement Balance 42,000.00
3.972.000	Playground Maintenance Reserves Balance 2,845.00
3.973.000	Parking Lot Seal/Repair Reserves Balance 10,162.50
3.974.000	Lawn & Landscaping Reserves Balance 3,285.43
3.975.000	Maintenance Reserves Balance 13,454.03
3.976.000	Carpeting Crossroads/Hallways Reserves Balance 3,302.00
3.977.000	Carpeting MP Room/Classrooms Balance 22,000.00
3.978.000	Security Lock System Reserves Balance 10,000.00
3.980.000	Equipment Reserves Balance 8,226.33
3.981.000	Bells Maintenance Reserves Balance 2,236.58
3.985.000	Sabbatical Reserves Balance 9,975.89
	Total Reserves \$130,099.84
<i>Permanently Restricted Funds</i>	
3.940.000	Endowment Fund Balance 12,093.36
	Total Permanently Restricted Funds \$12,093.36
3.130.000	Building & Grounds Equity 3,872,564.36
3.300.100	Garage Building Equity Balance 41,717.68
	Total Equity \$3,914,282.04
	Total Fund Balances & Equity \$4,561,003.52
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balances & Equity \$7,919,521.39

2021 Financial Reports *(cont)*

**Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church - Huntley IL
Treasurer's Report as of December 2021 for General Fund**

Friday, January 7, 2022

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance	Budget YTD
<i>Income</i>			
4.100.000	Member Contributions	741,061.43	756,000.00
4.150.000	Loose Plate and Growth	25,543.98*	23,169.00
4.200.000	Miscellaneous Income	0.00	0.00
4.250.000	Flower Income	800.00	2,000.00
4.300.000	Interest Income (Heartland Bank)	125.25	200.00
4.701.100	Interest Income MIF Fixed Term	31.36*	0.00
	Total Income	\$767,562.02	\$781,369.00
<i>Expenses</i>			
<i>Connections Ministry</i>			
	Connections Ministry	\$1,151.56*	\$1,000.00
<i>Mission Ministry</i>			
	Mission Ministry	\$80,074.12	\$83,160.00
<i>Outreach Ministry</i>			
	Outreach Ministry	\$5,897.27	\$7,500.00
<i>Adult Education Ministry</i>			
	Adult Education Ministry	\$399.84	\$1,300.00
<i>Youth and Education Ministry</i>			
	Youth and Education Ministry	\$4,274.68	\$10,000.00
<i>Children and Family Ministry</i>			
	Children and Family Ministry	\$3,818.96	\$4,700.00
<i>Music Ministry</i>			
	Music Ministry	\$4,413.08	\$6,550.00
<i>Worship Ministry</i>			
	Worship Ministry	\$5,122.38	\$5,950.00
<i>Audio Visual</i>			
	Audio Visual	\$1,737.47	\$2,500.00
<i>Facilities</i>			
	Facilities	\$70,100.05	\$76,140.00
<i>Office Expenses</i>			
	Office Expenses	\$32,602.79	\$37,061.00
<i>Staffing Ministry</i>			
	Staffing Ministry	\$508,366.11*	\$497,810.00
<i>Other Church Expenses</i>			
	Other Church Expenses	\$26,299.31	\$28,700.00
<i>Providing for the Future</i>			
	Providing for the Future	\$18,999.56	\$19,000.00
	Total Expenses	\$763,257.18	\$781,371.00
	Difference	<u>\$4,304.84</u>	<u>(\$2.00)</u>

* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date

ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORTS

Small Groups

The **Heartbeat** of
Shepherd of the Prairie



MINISTRY GROUPS

- Community Outreach Team
- Children & Family Team
- Worship & Music Team
- Youth & Family Team
- Stewardship Team
- Church Council
- Property Team
- Mission Team
- Finance Team
- SOTP Staff

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

- Bowling League
- Coffee Fellowship
- Fun For All Ages
- Men's Coffee
- SOTP Supper Club

CARE GROUPS

- Barnabas Caregiving
- Grief Support; Grief Journey Group
- Caring Callers; Caring Cards
- Communion From the Assembly
- Helping Hands
- Prayer Ministry
- AA
- Al-Anon

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

The **7s** (7 week groups)

STUDY GROUPS

- Weekly Bible Study with Pastor Bill
- Friends Bible Study
- Suppers With Luther
- God's Girls
- Sunshine Boys

"A GROWING CHURCH FOR GROWING PEOPLE"

Connections Ministry

What a year this has been; but the Connections Ministry has been working to continue to connect and engage people into the life of Shepherd of the Prairie.

GRIEF MINISTRY & JOURNEY GROUP

Our Grief Ministry sends books to help those who are mourning a loved one. They receive four books over the course of the first year. This year we have sent the series of books to about 30 people, some of whom are not members of the church.



We have continued our Grief Journey Group this year and it has been heartwarming to see people connect with others who are grieving to offer and receive comfort, support and insight. Our group meets every Tuesday night from 6 to 7pm in the Library and all who grieve are welcome. We have been joined this year by many who are not members of SOTP. Several funeral homes and hospice organizations recommend people to contact us for the grief group. Our group decided to meet on Tuesday mornings during the winter starting in January 2022.

Another part of our grief ministry is our Blue Christmas service held in December. In 2021, it was held on Dec 7th. While we didn't have a large in person congregation, there were many more who worshipped on line and even more who viewed it on Facebook after that evening. Many of those who worshipped with us whether on line or in person let us know how meaningful the service was to them.

BARNABAS CAREGIVING MINISTRY



Our Barnabas Caregiving Ministry was able to begin making visits to hospitals, care facilities and homes again as the year moved on. Our ministers have been faithful with phone calls and in person visits where possible. Each person on our Barnabas Care List received 2 cards each month. The Barnabas program also collected tablets that have been wiped clean by a member of SOTP who also added the website to them.

SMALL GROUPS **7s**

Working with Pastor Mark on the objective to make discipleship an integral part of the culture and DNA of Shepherd of the Prairie, we began a process of rethinking and re-visualizing our existing groups. We began with the idea that “small groups are the heartbeat of SOTP”. To that end we recognized that all ministry done in and through SOTP is done through small groups. Small groups have five characteristics; study, fellowship, support, service and discipleship. All of our ministries here at SOTP strive to encompass all five of these characteristics. The ministries were categorized as to which characteristic they focused on; study, fellowship, support and service. We acknowledge and stress that each group involves all of the characteristics including discipleship.

While all of the groups include discipleship (learning from Jesus to live life his way), we wanted to include groups that intentionally focus on discipleship. To accomplish that, we introduced the **7s** Discipleship Groups. These are groups that meet each week for seven weeks in the fall, winter (post-Christmas) and spring (post-Easter). They include, as they meet, the elements of study (a Bible study and worship), fellowship (time for fun and/or snacks), support (listening to and praying for each other), service (finding a project to participate in), and discipleship (apprenticing themselves to Jesus to learn how he lived and how they can too).

We enlisted seven leaders for our first discipleship groups who were trained through SOTP and an online program through the United Methodist Church. We began our first session of **7s** with a celebration of our existing groups and a kickoff for the **7s** on October 10th. The groups then met for 6 more weeks. Most of the groups are gearing up for our next kickoff of our winter session on January 16th, and two more new groups are beginning with new leaders. The spring session with kickoff on April 24th.

Connections Ministry (cont)

NEW MEMBER GATHERINGS AND VISITOR AWARENESS

Four New Member Gatherings were held during 2021; March, May, August and November and we welcomed 49 new members; including our first virtual members. Many of our newest members have already become actively engaged in the life of SOTP! Welcome to our all of new members and we look forward to getting to know you better!

We continue with our Visitor Contact link on our website enabling visitors to connect with us by filling out virtual “Welcome Center” information. Many people from all over the country have connected with us in this way. It’s a beautiful thing to have people from all over our country and the world worshipping God through SOTP. We have also revamped our “in person” Welcome Center program.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD

This year I served on two Northern Illinois Synod Committees; The Nominating Committee as chairperson and on the Ministry Support Committee and was elected to a six-year term on the Consultation Committee. Due to both the Congregational Resourcing Event and the Synod Assembly being cancelled, I helped to prepare and lead an online forum for Anti-Sexual Harassment Awareness Training. I also serve on the Bishop’s Advisory Cabinet and the governing board for NIS Diakonia program.

MINISTRY TEAMS

As you read through the ministry reports for this year you will see how our SOTP Ministry Teams have continued to serve God, all of you and our communities. Our Ministry teams have been active in working to engage all of us in ways to do kingdom work.

Life continues to be challenging during these days, but as we return to normalcy here at SOTP, we have risen to the occasion to bring God’s love to all those we come into contact with. I would like to thank everyone who helped care for God’s people whether it was through a ministry here at SOTP, or in your own families or neighborhoods. God has truly blessed us with opportunities to serve God and God’s people! If you are looking for a way to become engaged with serving God and God’s people, contact me and I will be happy to help you find the right fit.

It has been very gratifying to serve in partnership with God and this congregation as we work together to bring God’s kingdom and will “on earth as it is in heaven”. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this capacity!

Grace & Peace,

—*Donna Kelly*

Connections Minister

donna@sotpmail.com

Community Outreach Ministry

SOTP COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Ministry Annual Report 2021

Thank you to all the volunteers and staff that came to the church to serve the Huntley Community this past year through food drives and other important in person activities for our community at our church. Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church made a difference and was recognized for it in several publications this past year. Bob Malm's suggestion to celebrate First Responder's Day became one of the biggest community events that Shepherd of the Prairie hosted inside its doors and the highlight of the Community Outreach Ministry year, with the outstanding support of both our local fire and police departments. Wendy Ottens joined our Ministry this past year and serves at our welcome center and was also a host at our Fall Fest booth. We would especially like to thank Donna Kelly for all of her wonderful support and guidance through out the year. I have been the lead of this ministry for over 7 years now and I could not do it without the support of my wife Rachael. With Rachael's leadership we reopened our welcome center and we have made the most of the pandemic's situation. The welcome center is staffed with volunteers to greet people at the end of each service. New Information Trifolds are complete and are being passed out to visitors.

Our ministry has done its best to support and partner with other ministries at our church where ever there is contact with the community and we are here to support SOTP's new marketing initiatives as well.

We have recently purchased ice scrapers with our church information on them to be given away through out the winter months. We plan to continue promoting the church through advertisements in the paper as well as press releases. This past year the committee partnered with the Youth and Family, as well as, the Artist Series to help promote and advertise events at the church. We placed several advertisements in local papers along with digital ads on community bulletin boards. The Community Outreach team will continue to work closely with other ministries in 2022. Our goal is to help host more community wide activities at our church and we will also help with table and canopy set up for any community presentation that Shepherd of the Prairie is present for in 2022. We will supply SOTP with items promoting the church as well as half sheet advertisements for upcoming events that can be handed out during the shows or community events when possible.

SOTP Community Outreach will be recruiting new members for 2022. The Community Outreach Ministry evangelizes for Christ in our community by supporting the church's participation in various Huntley community events. Typically these events are the Huntley Home, Business & Wellness Expo, Memorial Day Parade, Fall Fest, selected Farmer's Markets, SOTP Life Group led food drives, the SOTP Artist Series concerts, as well as, other special events. Members of this ministry also help invite individuals and families to worship at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church.

We are looking forward to utilizing more social media platforms to help create awareness of SOTP activities in the community in 2022. New giveaways will be distributed through the Huntley new resident totes as well as other community events that we participate in 2022. The Shepherd of the Prairie Community Outreach ministry will continue participating in Huntley annual events supported by members of the church when it safe to do so.

Our mission has been to continue spreading the Love and the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus. Once again, the Huntley community has seen what a great church family we have as we work together to tell others about Jesus and continue to invite people to our church.

Thank you to all who have supported the SOTP COMMUNITY OUTREACH ministry.

—*Mike Yndestad*,
Community Outreach Chairman



First Responder's Event 2021

Children & Family Ministries

The year 2021 was filled with many joys and new beginnings for the Children & Family Ministry, as well as its own challenges in many ways. With COVID still being a concern for many, the year started off slow as the world awaited more people to have access to a vaccine, but we did not let that stop us from creating opportunities for community and beginning new ministry programs for our kids and their families! Our ministry knew that we were embarking on a new journey in this new world we are currently living in, and we took the initial steps in adapting when necessary and creating spaces for the spirit to move amongst us and our families here at Shepherd of the Prairie.

We continued to have virtual Sunday School for the Spring semester, but this allowed our team to imagine and prepare a new model for Sunday School beginning in the Fall! We were able to, once again, hold in-person programming on Sunday mornings for our students in September, and it went off with a bang! We renamed our Sunday Program to “Kids Connect”, and went from a classroom model to a Children’s Church model. We knew our kids had had enough school in their life, and we wanted to create an environment for them to not only learn about God and the Bible, but we wanted them to experience God in unique ways and change what that learning could look like! Each week, the kids were still able to participate in worship in a multi-generational way, as well as have their own version of a message that could reach their level of understanding. Our kids start off in service to worship through music and prayer with their families, they then leave to go receive their message, activity, and learning only to return back to service during the passing of the peace so they can be a part of our wonderful sacrament of communion and witness God moving in the whole church in this way. It has been so great to see so many kids each week come and experience God in this new way and see how the Holy Spirit is moving in their lives. Each week we do something different and make the message interactive for our students. Some weeks we do a science experiment, other weeks we watch videos and have fruitful discussions, and some weeks we play an interactive game that we can draw our main message from. From week to week, it looks different and it keeps our kids excited to come back for more!

We were also able to have in-person events this year, and it came with its own excitements and unknowns. We mostly wanted to provide spaces for our families and church members to gather again and have fun together in different ways. We never knew how many people were going to show up or who would show up, but we knew no matter what, that we still wanted to create these opportunities, and see how the Lord would use them to connect us once again to each other in person. We had our first ever Kite Day in the spring that brought people together from the church and the community! We even had a wonderful gentleman donate his amazing handmade kites that he thought we would enjoy for our kite day! We were also able to host a fun Summer Evening movie night outdoors which brought together many families from our community and all-over. Along with that, we were able to host Vacation Bible School outdoors this year at the end of the summer. Our expectations were exceeded as we had so much fun with a jam-packed week of dancing, singing, learning, and more! We did not let the heat keep us down, and we pushed through as we celebrated Vacation Bible School together. In the fall, we were able to have Trunk or Treat once again, and we could not have asked for a better day! We had 16 cars participate as trunks and so many people from the community came and enjoyed this special event with us. It was such a joy to be a community again in this way and to see all the kids and their parents dressed up and having a great time!

We are gearing up for another year full of events and fun times, and we cannot wait to see how the Lord will use this ministry in this way this next year!

Along with that, we were even able to celebrate a new program that began in the fall. This new program is called “Adventure Club” and it is geared towards our 4th and 5th



Children & Family Ministries (cont)

grade students. This program was modeled after confirmation in its large group, small group format, and it is another unique opportunity for our older kids to feel like they have a place where they can have community together and learn at a level that suits them specifically. We decided to run this program in a 7-week trimester model allowing students to join when they can and have breaks in between. We go for 7 weeks in the fall, 7 weeks in the winter, and 7 weeks in the spring. This past fall we learned all about who God is, and it was so joyful to be able to witness God's hands in these students' lives. We laughed together, challenged each other, prayed together, and learned more about what it looks like to have a relationship with Jesus. I look forward to seeing how God will move amongst these students as we start up again in January for our next session!

As you can see, even though the year started off a little slow, we were able to hit the ground running and have another successful year celebrating our Lord, joining in community, and being God's hands and feet amongst each other. The planning for 2022 has already begun and been mapped out, and I cannot wait to see how the Lord uses this ministry in the new year!

—*Tessa DeLong*

LITTLE LAMBS

Our Little Lambs Preschool Program is celebrating its 13th year! We are excited to introduce our new Assistant Teacher, Ms. Kendra.

Kenda Coats is the new Assistant Teacher for our program. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from Southern Illinois University and a Master's degree from Northern Illinois University in Early Childhood Special Education. Kendra has led preschool classrooms and worked in the Early Intervention Program as a Developmental Therapist. Kendra lives in Huntley with her husband and her three children.

We are so happy to be back in the classroom this year. Covid has made a big impact on our program but we are constantly working to make sure we are up to date with all of the new CDC procedures.

This year we started out our new year with an Open House. We had all the students and families come the Thursday night before we started school. It was nice to be able to meet and talk with the parents of the students that work full time and don't get to see our classroom in action.

Classes meet from 9:00 am – noon on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. During this time we enjoy circle time, math/language lessons, letter recognition and letter sound recognition, Bible stories, crafts, music, snacks, free play and more! These activities help children develop Kindergarten readiness skills, a love for Bible stories and the knowledge that God loves us all!

We will be starting early enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year in January. Children between the ages of 2 and 4 yrs. (by Sept. 1st) are accepted into our program. Students do not need to be potty trained and do not need to be members of SOTP. Enrollment is limited, so, if you are interested in signing up your child, or, if you know someone who is, please contact us at littlelambs@sotpmail.com.

We see the smiling faces on our students and parents, every week, and feel the program has been a great success! With God's blessing, we'd like to see the program continue to grow!

—*Jill Gillming, Kendra Coats*

Mission Ministries

YEAR 2021 SOTP ANNUAL MISSION TEAM REPORT

Envisioning, Encouraging & Equipping of Missionary opportunities beyond the doors of SOTP.

Our church over the years has had many major \$ needs, i.e. a church building, our Church addition where we now worship,

LOOKING ahead we have a need for an additional Pastor. Etc. How can we meet this need during these difficult times? For me as mission leader I believe it is the fulfillment of Luke's (Chap 6:4) Scripture ("GIVE AND IT WILL BE GIVEN UNTO YOU").

That is what SOTP has been doing. Giving to others whenever and however possible. The year 2021 was no exception. From Mission Team's budget, Generous Anonymous donation and Holiday collections together we have given over \$34,000.00!

Those receiving our services and monies in 2021 were:

- AARK garden
- Blood Drives
- Celebrate Re-Entry
- ELCA Disaster Relief
 - Haiti, Hurricane Ida, Kentucky Tornados & US Forest Fires
- ELCA Missionary Support
 - Tanzania Africa
- Exodus World Service
- Elgin Community Crisis Center
- Feed My Starving Children
- Grafton Food Pantry
- Habitat for Humanity
 - Northern Fox Valley Hope Partnership & Elgin Re-Store
- Hampshire Food Pantry
- Homeless
- Home of the Sparrow
- Lutheran Social Service
 - (Including Addiction Center in Elgin)
- McHenry County Pioneer Senior Care
- Mercy Ships
- Mother Bear
- Northern IL Food Bank
- Turning Point



Luke not only tells us that Give and it will be given unto you.....but scripture goes on to say it will be given unto to you PRESS DOWN AND OVER FLOWING. I see this happening at SOTP and am Proud and humble to serve on the Mission Team.

Vik Bekeris, Mark Bidinger, Tom Daugherty, Carl Hupert, Sandy Hupert, Steve Legel, Anette Petersen, Sharon Stangle, Donna Strickland, Becky Wright. Ask us questions! COME SEE WHAT WE ARE ABOUT ON THE SECOND MONDAY EVENING OF THE MONTH. WE NEED YOU!

Respectfully submitted,
—*Sandy Hupert*

Mission Ministries (cont)

Mission Team Leader

PRAIRIE POINT QUILTERS

The Prairie Point Quilters are slowly getting back to what appears to be normal now. We've added a few new members and lost a few. We do miss them very much.

Our Quilt count is finally getting up there. We hope to have another quilt dedication early next year.

About 15 quilts were taken up to Home of the Sparrow in McHenry, mostly because of the generous donations of Bev Kenny. She also took over the leadership of the quilters starting in December.

We are still in need of cotton fabrics and flat sheets. If you have any laying around that you want to get rid of, please bring to church and we will get them. We do appreciate all the donations so very much.

—*Nancy Morbeck*

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is based on a very old idea...that those experiencing rough times, physically, emotionally or spiritually, are comforted with the presence of a warm shawl.

The shawls are available to all, we also donate them to Northwestern Medicine and Transition Hospice.

This year we were asked by the hospice group if we could make “red, white & blue” shawls for Veteran's Day. In October, we delivered 19 shawls.

We added our 1st virtual member this year, Dorothy from the Ozarks! Dorothy has provided us with many lovely shawls delivered by her daughter.

The group also provides the baptism blankets, Alice and her daughter Tammy also create blankets for the graduating seniors.

We gratefully receive donations for yarn from Thrivent and other donors.

This is a very rewarding ministry and new knitters and/or crocheters are always welcome.

—*Alice Hallett and Jeanne Henley*

GIVING TREE

This year our Giving Tree involved all gifts being gift cards to local establishments. The cards and monetary gifts were distributed by Turning Point and Grafton Food Pantry. A total of \$225 was donated in gifts cards and \$105 was donated by cash or check. Two large bags of food were also donated.

—*Barb Hoppensteadt*



Worship Ministries

Members: Chris Solem, Orv McElfresh, Elaine Gilliam, Diane Mollis, Andrew Szekely, Judie Symbal, Barb Pagano, Carolyn Cuttle, Barb Hoppensteadt, Kathy McGuine, Jane McMullen

The Worship Committee at SOTP is responsible for

- Flowers in the sanctuary
- Banners
- Greeters
- Ushers
- Altar Guild/Communion/ Communion stewards
- Readers
- Drama
- Special Services (Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter, Reformation, All Saints Day, Advent, Christmas)



2021 started in pandemic pandemonium. Initially our services were live streamed. When the decision was made to resume people attending services, the worship committee made recommendations to Council to ensure the health and safety of the congregation was met. As part of the safety and health, communion is now using wafers and plastic cups (wine and grape juice). While we are back with services, the congregation continues to wear masks and be cautious with social distancing.

There is still a need for volunteers. Before COVID there were many volunteers. Following COVID, the committee lost greeters, ushers, communion stewards, assisting minister, etc. These roles are vital to the church services. With many volunteers, people serve one Sunday service per month. Currently we are using the volunteers to serve multiple Sundays and positions. Sign up genius is readily available to people to sign up. Michelle Rankin will even help if you are not computer literate. Some of our leaders have started calling people asking them to serve. What the committee needs is volunteers to commit to one Sunday service per month. We can again be a “well organized “group of volunteers serving our church community..

Jane McMullen

Director of Worship and Music

USHER MINISTRY – ANDREW SZEKELY

The Usher ministry continues to support all regularly scheduled services, including special events and holidays. Even though the ministry's head count had been reduced to less than half this past year the volunteers continue to operate efficiently even in a lean state. However, we are pleased to welcome back prior volunteers who had stepped away due to health or other concerns resulting from the pandemic.

Looking ahead, the usher ministry will continue to collaborate with the Worship Committee and streamline processes, plan events and discuss strategies to increase volunteer participation in all ministries.

Special thanks to our usher ministry members who also serve in various other cross functional capacities, including communion stewardship, youth ministry, music teams, facility management, special event organizers and other leadership positions.

COMMUNION / ALTAR GUILD – JUDIE SYMBAL

Altar Guild is responsible for communion and the altar clothes. I am so proud to have a great team of people like Barb on Sat. night and on Sunday Marilyn Wilhelm, Sandy Kramilich, Judy Carol Lindsey, and Sandy Schuessler at 9 a.m. set up. Then after 10:45 a.m. service for cleanup is Marlene Boehler, Sandy Petterson, Donna Schnepff, and Linda Jar. I am so blessed. If anyone would like to join us, please let me know. We are also looking for Communion Stewards Thank you all.

Worship Ministries (*cont*)

BANNERS AND DECORATING – BARB PAGANO AND CAROLYN CUTTLE

This group works to decorate the church for the liturgical seasons. Banners and displays change with each season. Flowers are also designed for each season as well. Advent and Christmas are a remarkably busy time of the year. Holy Week, Palm Sunday and Easter require special attention to the detail and the message.

GREETERS – ELAINE GILLIAM

2021 has been another challenging year for everyone. As a "Greeter" for Shepherd of the Prairie Church, it is always gratifying walking into our church being greeted at the door by a warm person/greeter with a smiling face and pleasant voice. That is the job of a "greeter" at SOTP.

New greeters are always welcome. While the number of greeters has declined over the past couple of years, we are still continuing to provide support for all scheduled services.

Any support provided by our congregants, would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all who support our worship ministry here at Shepherd of the Prairie.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR SANCTUARY - DIANE MOLLIS

There were a total fourteen arrangements donated for the sanctuary. They were ordered from Town and Country Gardens in Elgin.

- January - 1 ordered
- February - 1 ordered
- May - 2 ordered
- June - 2 ordered
- September - 1 ordered
- October - 3 ordered
- November - 2 ordered
- December - 2 ordered

SPECIAL FLOWERS FOR EASTER AND CHRISTMAS 2021

Easter had 37 Lilies ordered from Countryside in Crystal Lake

Christmas 2021 had 52 Red Poinsettias and one large White Poinsettia (Artist Series paid for large poinsettia) ordered from Countryside in Crystal Lake.



Music Ministries

ADULT CHOIR

Still in the throws of the pandemic, the adult choir members continued to take turns leading worship every Sunday at the 9 am service.

In June we resumed rehearsals and presented the “battle Hymn of the Republic” on Sunday July 4th. The choir did an outstanding job!!

In August we began rehearsing again on a weekly basis.

The choir lead worship almost every Sunday at our 9 am service in the Fall months.

In December the choir , along with the choir from Immanuel Lutheran in Crystal Lake presented a Christmas Cantata; “Winter’s Grace” complete with full chamber orchestra. This was an extraordinary blessing to all who attended.

Finally the choir led our 11 pm service on Christmas Eve

Cherub Choir under the direction of Annette Boster rehearsed on Sunday morning and sung once a month for our 10:45 am service. As always these little ones added such special blessings to our worship.



HAND BELLS - CHRISTA SERPE/JANE McMULLEN

The Adult handbell choir was rehearsing with masks for a while until COVID-19 numbers increased and a couple members got the virus. We were able to start bell rehearsals again, with masks on in late September. Bells played for worship several times and on Christmas Eve.

In September we resumed rehearsals for Children/Youth bells.

We have 2 groups; Spirit Ringers and Joy Ringers(Chimes) that have done extremely well!! These choirs played in worship a few times and on Christmas Eve at 3 pm service.

ARTIST SERIES

The Artist Series has continued to be a dream fulfilled when we set out to build this wonderful building and serve the community. Community outreach is our foundation and mission here at Shepherd of the Prairie now and going forward. Our focus and guiding principal are to make the arts accessible by presenting a wide variety of events for all ages.

The beginning of 2021, we found ourselves still dealing with the Covid 19 pandemic. We were forced to cancel a few events for winter and spring.

In July, with Covid numbers decreasing we presented “a Patriotic Concert” which was a true delight for the big crowd that attended.

In September, we presented "Beyond the Neighborhood"- featuring a jazz quarter with stylings of songs by Fred Rogers.. The musicians were outstanding!

In December, we presented “Winter’s Joy” a celebration of Christmas featuring Brassworks Brass Quintet, “the Caroling Party” and our own Bill and Carol Waxenberg as storytellers. Jolly old Saint Nick even showed up and told all the reason for the season.

We have many events planned for 2022 and hope and pray Covid 19 will be gone.

We are so excited to present all these great events to you . And of course, a venture such as this would not be possible without the generous support of so many. Thankfully, because of the generosity of our congregation, committee members, church staff, and previous audiences, the cost of each event is always Free of charge. “Soli Deo Gloria" (To God Alone Be the Glory),

Jane McMullen

Director of Worship and Music

Fellowship Ministries

SOTP SUPPER GROUPS

2021 was a difficult year for the SOTP Supper Groups due to the pandemic. The concept changed from supper to dessert as was started at the end of 2020. Supper groups enable members to get to know the people they attend service with. What better way to get to know someone than sharing food, drink, and conversation? There were a total of 21 participants for all of 2021, beginning February through April. Instead of a meal, the host served dessert in order to encourage participants to wear masks and social distance. Desserts are easily handled in a small group since the participants can eat dessert on a small tray table or coffee table, and can socially distance. Regretfully, due to the pandemic, there were few people who participated in this last session, only five.

Respectfully Submitted,

—*Marilyn Sauerberg and Sharon Stangle*

FUN FOR ALL AGES

We had 120 people attend the Annual Church Picnic on August 22, 2021 and 75 attended Piefest at church on Nov. 24, 2021.

—*Sharon Little*

Chairperson

Barnabas Caregiving Ministry

CARING CALLERS MINISTRY

My group of four women including myself continue to make calls to those in need of a caring caller! I contact Michelle each Friday for list of names of those who may need a caring call!

My group of women are devoted to making these calls each week and we pray with them if requested or just listen to what they may be going through! I work with amazing ladies who are so dedicated to this calling. Thank you, ladies, for your continued help

—*Carolyn Cuttle, Sara Solem, Bonnie Vanaria, Lynn Broederdorf*

BARNABAS CAREGIVING MINISTRY

2021 saw us being able to once again visit people in hospitals, care facilities and in their homes. What a joy to be able to carry God's and our love and Communion to people once again!! Our Barnabas Ministers group was able to also begin meeting monthly in person again and our group focused on the book, "How to Listen So People Will Talk", by Becky Harling. In this book we learned even more about how to actively listen and how live-giving that is to those we listen to.

The need for our Barnabas Ministry has grown substantially in 2021. We currently have 52 people on our list who received cards and/or visits monthly. We have discovered that our "staff" of ministers is being stretched to their limits! We will be sponsoring a campaign in the early Spring to hopefully enlist and train many more Barnabas Ministers. To that end, we have scheduled a training session here at SOTP for March 26th.

—*Donna Sorensen, Donna Kelly*

Barnabas Caregiving Ministry (cont)

SOTP PRAYER CHAIN

The Shepherd of the Prairie prayer chain continues to hold up those in our congregation, families, friends, communities and the world in prayer. We recently had to shut down our automatic prayer disbursement system due to being hacked several times. If you would like to request prayer please either complete the prayer request form on our website, or email your request to donna@sotpmail.com.

CARING CARD

The Caring Card team responds quickly with "Thinking of You" "Get Well Wishes" "Happy Birthday" to our Shepherd of the Prairie membership. This ministry responds quickly to families, friends, who might need comfort during trying times, from this ministry. The team of women, include Linda Murphy, Mary Tabatt and Carol Spiller. The ministry also recognizes our military members and their families with cards of recognition for their service to our country, The United States of America. Peace and faith to every one in our community.

—*Carol Spiller*

HELPING HANDS/FUNERAL LUNCH

The funeral lunch is provided after the memorial service as our way of providing comfort and care to those going through the loss of a loved one.

—*Jeanne Henley*

Property Ministries

In 2021 the building was not utilized to its fullest potential due to restrictions still in place but our team still kept very busy. In addition to our usual maintenance and to-do lists we've completed some much needed projects. The following are just a few items of the many we've been working on.

- Completed the construction of our storage garage.
- Removed old outgrown storage shed.
- Relocated many outdoor and seasonal items to the storage garage.
- Spread 95 yards of mulch throughout the entire property.
- Got quotes on buried drainage pipes for rain runoff.
- Added to our number of sanitizer dispensers throughout the common areas.



We're blessed to have such a diverse group of dedicated volunteers working on our team. Each person brings their own specialized skills to the group. There's always room for more on our team.

If you have an interest in joining our team please contact me at 847-902-4741 or vettefixer67@sbcglobal.net

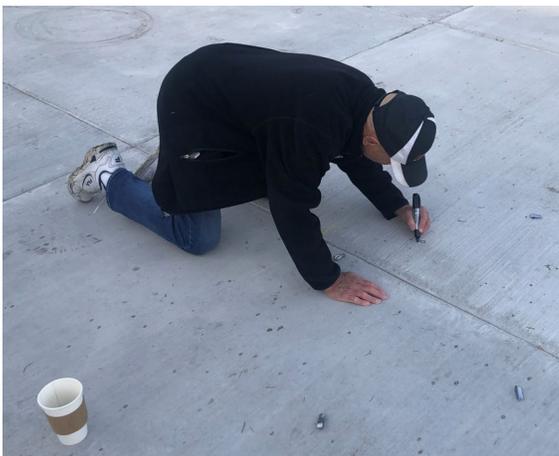
—*Mark Fren dreis*

Leader, Property Team

MEMORY GARDEN

2021 was a very busy year for the Memory Garden Team. In March & April 36 Niche Agreements were completed. The 72 niche Columbarium was ordered in March. The concrete pad and walkways were poured in June. The Memory Brick walkway was completed in September. After 3 ½ years of working on the Memory Garden, our Columbarium was installed on October 22nd.

The original team consisting of Ellen Nissen, Kathy Miller, Evie Gniot, Ron Knutson, Pastor Mark, Carol DeFiore, and Ralph Wehnes has been reconstructed by the Church Council to include members of other teams at church. Hats off to all on the original team for their work on all phases of things that needed to be done to get the Memory Garden to the point it was by the end of October.



The new Memory Garden team will consist of Ellen Nissen representing the Church Council, Bill Nesta representing the Finance Team, Peter Walther representing the Property Team, Matt Morrison representing the Church Staff, Ralph Wehnes because he has most of the past records, Pastor Mark, and Carol DeFiore as an advisor for funeral questions.

The Columbarium was dedicated on All Saints Sunday, November 7th. The landscaping was installed in November. The team ordered three 4' Granite benches that were donated by 3 families. The arrival of the benches will be sometime in Spring 2022. There is still space for Memory Bricks on the walkway, and there are 35 niches available in the original Columbarium.

Respectfully Submitted,

—*Ralph Wehnes*

Administrative Support Ministries

SPECIAL GIFTS & MEMORIALS

The purpose of this committee is to record and acknowledge all gifts received from members and friends of SOTP. Memorials are allocated to our Memorial Fund. Family wishes for other purposes will be considered. Gifts may be made to SOTP in memory of loved ones; in celebration of a special occasion; or to honor individuals. Year 2021 memorials were also designed for the Memory Garden, piano, adult music ministry, mortgage service, Good Samaritan Fund, miscellaneous benevolences. We are grateful for all gifts received.

In 2021 the church received memorials for the above ministries totaling over \$35,000. The memorials were received in memory of the following members and friends

Grace Barr (<i>Betty Knawa's mother</i>)	Lois Brothers
Richard Brush	Alice Buege (<i>Joyce Thompson's mother</i>)
Richard Gerhardt	Joe Hansen
Betty Knawa	Doris Kopp
Elaine & Sheldon Lewis	Earl Meeske
Alice Murphy	Larry Newbanks
Robert Petersen	Martin Schnepff
Jerry Warnke	Nancy Zunker

—*Susan Wehnes*

Special Gifts and Memorials Committee

Congregation Support Ministries

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

First and foremost, I would like to thank Chris Brolsma, Rick Miller, and Ralph Wehnes for everything they did in 2021 throughout the stewardship campaign. Without their help, none of this would be possible. One thing we realized in 2021, it is never too late to learn something new. The Stewardship Team was given the opportunity to attend virtual sessions facilitated by some of our Northern Illinois Synod representatives to walk us through the processes of a successful stewardship campaign. In fact, this is where our 2021 theme, Building A Culture of Generosity, came from. It was an educational program, and the stewardship team would like to thank SOTP and the NI Synod for giving us the opportunity to attend these sessions, they were very helpful.

Our Financial Stewardship drive began on Oct. 2nd with Temple Talks and continued throughout the month with the following points of emphasis for 2022:

- Calling of a Second Pastor – Thank you to the Call Committee and Mike Luecht for providing input to this video.
- Advancing Technology – Thank you Mike Yndestad and team for providing this excellent video.
- Advancing Meaningful Engagement through Small Groups and Ministry – Thank you to Donna Kelly for putting together this meaningful ministry.
- Commitment to Advancing Youth Ministry – Christa Serpe (and family) provided a wonderful testimony on behalf of the Youth Program and the meaning it has to her family. I would also like to thank Bob McDuffee and Tessa DeLong for assisting on this video and for everything they do for our youth program.

I would really like to send a special thank you to Dennis Houghton, Mike Yndestad and all of Mike's team for all the hard work and time they spent assisting the Stewardship Team in the making of all of these videos. Their skillsets are so incredible and their passion for their work is amazing.

Our Stewardship Campaign concluded on Nov. 6th weekend with Intent Sunday. With the pandemic still in full force, we emphasized the value of the online Estimate of Giving option that our web developer, Dennis Lilla, supports for us and the congregation delivered!

Here are the results of our financial drive:

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| ● General Fund | \$682, 884 from 220 giving units | 119.4% of 2021 Results |
| ● Mortgage Fund | \$223,496 from 190 giving units | 90.0% of 2021 Results |
| ● Total | \$906,382 | 110.5% of 2021 Results |

While our giving units has gone down slightly from 2021, through the culture of generosity at SOTP, it has resulted a wonderfully successful Stewardship Campaign for 2022!

Thank you to all who submitted an EOG card for 2022, it is your timeliness and generosity that helps all of our ministry teams plan for great things to come in 2022!

—*Mike McCann*
Stewardship Leader

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church 2022 Budget

Acct. No.	Account Name	2021	2021	2022
		Budget	Actual	Budget

Income				
4.100.000	Member Contributions ¹	756,000.00	741,061.43	792,000.00
4.150.000	Loose Plate & Growth	23,169.52	25,543.98	25,000.00
4.200.000	Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-
4.250.000	Flower Income	2,000.00	800.00	1,000.00
4.300.000	Interest Income	200.00	125.25	283.00
	Total Income ²	\$ 781,369.52	\$ 767,530.66	\$ 818,283.00

Expense	Mission Ministry			
5.100.110	ELCA N. Illinois Synod ³	75,600.00	72,874.12	79,200.00
5.100.112	Local Mission ⁴	7,560.00	7,200.00	7,920.00
5.100.113	Mission Ministry - Other	-	-	-
	Total Misson Ministry	\$ 83,160.00	\$ 80,074.12	\$ 87,120.00

Expense	Outreach Ministry			
5.150.100	Outreach/Evangelism ⁵	3,500.00	1,703.37	-
5.150.150	Advertising/Community Communications	4,000.00	4,193.90	3,750.00
5.150.250	Miscellaneous Outreach	-	-	-
	Total Outreach Ministry	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 5,897.27	\$ 3,750.00

Expense	Connections Ministry			
5.150.300	Connections Ministry	1,000.00	1,151.56	500.00
5.150.301	Life Groups	-		2,000.00
5.150.302	Barnabas Caregiving ⁶	-		-
	Total Connections Ministry	1,000.00	1,151.56	2,500.00

Expense	Adult Education Ministry			
5.200.300	Adult Ed Curriculum	500.00	152.24	500.00
5.200.350	Retreat Expense	-	-	-
5.200.400	Other Adult Education	500.00	-	-
5.200.450	Home Devotional Guides	300.00	247.60	300.00
	Total Adult Education	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 399.84	\$ 800.00

**Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
2022 Budget**

Acct. No.	Account Name	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
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Expense	Youth Education Ministry			
5.250.100	HS Youth Resources ⁷	2,000.00	193.53	-
5.250.150	HS Youth Curriculum	700.00	-	500.00
5.250.200	Mission Trip Expenses	2,500.00	2,194.29	2,000.00
5.250.250	HS Youth Events	1,300.00	867.57	1,300.00
5.250.275	Software/ Subscriptions	1,500.00	-	-
5.250.280	Confirmation Expenses	2,000.00	1,019.29	1,500.00
5.250.300	Other Youth Expenses	-	-	-
Total Youth Education Ministry		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 4,274.68	\$ 5,300.00

Expense	Children & Family Ministry			
5.250.285	Sunday School Expenses	1,000.00	312.54	1,000.00
5.250.290	VBS Expenses	2,500.00	667.15	2,500.00
5.250.350	Children & Family Services	1,200.00	2,787.09	2,500.00
5.250.360	Adventure Club Expenses	-	52.18	500.00
Total Children & Family Ministry		4,700.00	3,818.96	6,500.00

Expense	Music Ministry ⁸			
5.300.100	Choral Expenses	1,000.00	780.23	-
5.300.161	Organ/Piano Supply	400.00	-	-
5.300.175	Bells Expenses	1,000.00	144.46	-
5.300.350	Band Expenses	2,000.00	1,212.52	2,000.00
5.300.400	Piano/Organ Maintenance	900.00	1,159.00	-
5.300.500	Licensing Fees	750.00	916.10	550.00
5.300.550	Music Resources Expense	500.00	200.77	-
Total Music Ministry		\$ 6,550.00	\$ 4,413.08	\$ 2,550.00

Expense	Worship Ministry			
5.350.150	Flowers	1,500.00	2,034.24	2,000.00
5.350.151	Sanctuary Arts			500.00
5.350.200	Altar Guild	700.00	516.84	700.00
5.350.250	Pastoral Assistance	2,000.00	930.96	1,500.00
5.350.300	Worship Supplies	750.00	288.98	750.00
5.350.350	Misc. Worship Expense	1,000.00	1,351.36	1,000.00
Total Worship Ministry		\$ 5,950.00	\$ 5,122.38	\$ 6,450.00

**Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
2022 Budget**

Acct. No.	Account Name	2021	2021	2022
		Budget	Actual	Budget

Expense	Audio Visual Ministry			
5.350.100	Audio Visual Ministry Software	2,500.00	1,737.47	2,000.00
5.350.101	Audio Visual Ministry Hardware	-	-	2,000.00
5.350.102	Audio Visual Ministry Advancements ⁹	-	-	-
Total Audio Visual Ministry		2,500.00	1,737.47	4,000.00

Expense	Facilities			
5.400.100	Cleaning Services	15,300.00	13,625.00	15,300.00
5.400.150	Utilities	25,334.00	22,063.45	28,012.00
5.400.200	Waste Removal	1,304.52	1,446.62	2,496.00
5.400.250	Grounds Maintenance	6,150.00	5,800.00	6,380.00
5.400.255	Snow Removal	11,125.00	11,275.00	11,550.00
5.400.300	Maint./Cleaning Supplies	1,200.00	906.44	1,200.00
5.400.350	Contract Services	11,425.00	12,939.41	13,741.00
5.400.400	Misc. Facilities Expense ¹⁰	4,300.00	2,044.13	9,000.00
Total Facilities		\$ 76,138.52	\$ 70,100.05	\$ 87,679.00

Expense	Office Expenses			
5.450.100	Office Supplies	3,600.00	2,978.47	3,000.00
5.450.150	Office Equipment	1,000.00	124.00	1,000.00
5.450.200	Web/Software Expense	8,321.00	7,185.28	6,860.00
5.450.225	High Speed Internet	1,800.00	1,799.40	1,800.00
5.450.250	Telephone	2,400.00	2,134.71	2,200.00
5.450.275	Wireless Phone	1,200.00	997.44	1,150.00
5.450.300	Postage	2,500.00	1,844.15	2,500.00
5.450.350	Dues & Subscriptions	240.00	440.00	240.00
5.450.400	Equipment Rental	16,000.00	13,193.11	9,100.00
5.450.450	Misc. Office Expense	-	1,906.23	-
5.450.500	IT Support Service ¹¹	-	-	2,400.00
Total Office Expense		\$ 37,061.00	\$ 32,602.79	\$ 30,250.00

**Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
2022 Budget**

Acct. No.	Account Name	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
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Expense	Staffing Ministry			
5.500.XXX	Spiritual Ministry Group Staffing ¹²	344,838.00	345,400.50	346,428.00
5.500.XXX	Support Ministry Group Staffing ¹³	125,836.00	136,461.03	150,067.00
5.500.550	Staff Training/Continuing Ed.	500.00	149.95	500.00
5.500.600	Staff Social Security	23,636.00	23,768.70	26,741.00
5.500.625	SOTP Paid Employee Benefits	-	-	-
5.500.700	Employer Relations	3,000.00	2,585.93	2,000.00
5.500.701	Staffing	-	-	1,000.00
5.500.725	Staffing for Growth	-	-	5,848.00
Total Staffing Ministry		\$ 497,810.00	\$ 508,366.11	\$ 532,584.00

Expense	Other Church Expenses			
5.550.110	Kitchen Supplies	1,200.00	267.29	500.00
5.550.115	Coffee Service	800.00	694.24	800.00
5.550.125	Church Events Expense	-	928.34	900.00
5.550.150	Committee Expenses	350.00	703.90	700.00
5.550.175	Synod Assembly Expense	-	354.00	400.00
5.550.200	Church Insurance	14,000.00	16,660.30	16,000.00
5.550.250	Automobile Expense	5,500.00	3,436.10	4,000.00
5.550.300	Human Resources	250.00	-	-
5.550.350	Bank Fees	1,500.00	1,347.90	1,500.00
5.530.351	Legal Expenses	-		700.00
5.550.351	Stock Sales Costs	-	-	-
5.550.400	Misc. Expenses	300.00	-	-
5.550.340	Credit Card Fees	3,900.00	1,090.14	1,500.00
5.550.155	Offering Envelopes	900.00	817.10	900.00
Total Other Expenses		\$ 28,700.00	\$ 26,299.31	\$ 27,900.00

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church 2022 Budget

Acct. No.	Account Name	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
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Expense	Providing for the Future			
5.600.100	Provision for Outreach	-	-	-
5.600.150	Provision for Barnabas Ministry	750.00	750.00	-
5.600.200	Provision for Equipment	2,000.00	2,000.03	6,100.00
5.600.210	Provision for Roof Repairs	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
5.600.220	Provision for Parking Lot	2,550.00	2,550.50	2,550.00
5.600.230	Provison for Lawn/Landscape	2,750.00	2,748.53	2,750.00
5.600.250	Provision for Building Maint.	3,500.00	3,500.03	3,500.00
5.600.260	Provision for Carpeting Crossroads	-	-	-
5.600.270	Provision for Carpeting M/P Room	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
6.600.310	Provision for Bells Maint.	250.00	250.47	-
5.600.350	Provision for Sabatical	1,200.00	1,200.00	-
Total Providing for the Future		\$ 19,000.00	\$ 18,999.56	\$ 20,900.00

	Total Expenses	\$ 781,369.52	\$ 763,257.18	\$ 818,283.00
	Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ -	\$ 4,273.48	\$ -

Footnotes:

1. CY2022 Member Contributions are budgeted to be 6.9% growth over CY2021 Actual Member Contributions.
2. CY2022 total income is budgeted as 6.6% more than CY2021 actual total income & 4.7% more than CY2021 budget total income.
3. SOTP's contribution to the ELCA Northern Illinois Synod is budgeted at 10% of expected Member Contribution and will be paid at 10% of Actual Member Contributions received during CY2022.
4. SOTP's contribution to Local Mission is budgeted at 1% of expected Member Contributions and will be paid at 1% of Actual Member Contributions received during CY2022.
5. CY2022 Outreach/Evangelism funding (5.150.100) is to come from Community Outreach Reserves (5.260.000).
6. CY2022 Barnabas Caregiving funding (5.150.302) is to come from Provision for Barnabas Reserves (5.950.000).
7. CY2022 HS Youth Resource Funding (5.250.100) is to come from Youth Ministry Reserves (5.417.000).
8. CY2022 all Music Ministry funding, except Band Expenses (5.300.350) and Licensing Fees (5.300.500) are to come from Adult Music Ministry Fund (5.330.000).
9. CY2022 Audio Visual Ministry Advancement funding (5.350.102) to come from Provisions for Equipment Reserve Fund (5.980.000).
10. CY2022 Misc. Facilities Expense funding (5.400.400) recommending that some Memorial Funds assist with some of the Misc. Facility Improvement Projects.
11. CY2022 Council has recommended adding outside IT Support Services for security & backup of confidential & critical computer data with additional IT escalation services.
12. CY2022 Spiritual Ministry Group Staffing includes Senior Pastor, Connection Ministry, Director Children & Family, Youth Ministry, Director Music & Worship, Organist, Contemporary Worship, Director of Adult Education
13. CY2022 Support Ministry Group Staffing includes Operations Manager, Technical Support, Office Manager, Accounting Administrator, Audio Visual Coordinator