

**Adoration Lutheran Church Annual Meeting
Agenda
23 May 2021**

- ◇ **Call to Order – President Ted Lazaris**
- ◇ **Opening Prayer – Pastor Matt Schlake-Kruse**
- ◇ **Approve Minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting (30 August 2020)**
- ◇ **Pastor’s Report**
- ◇ **Council President’s Report**
- ◇ **Committee Reports**
- ◇ **Review of Parish Register**
- ◇ **Review of Financial Updates to date**
- ◇ **Thanks to outgoing members of the Church Council**
 - **Jim Haas**
 - **Kathy Wakefield**
 - **Sean McGinty**
- ◇ **Election of New Church Council Members**
 - **Jennifer Anderson**
 - **Bob Yersin**
 - **Sharon Anderson (2nd term)**
- ◇ **Adjournment**
- ◇ **Closing Prayer**

Adoration Lutheran Church
Minutes of the Annual Congregation Meeting
August 30, 2020

Ted Lazaris called the Annual Congregation meeting for Adoration Lutheran Church for 2020 to order at 11:09 a.m. The Annual Congregation meeting was held on August 30, 2020 instead of May 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We have not been able to be in church for some months now and it took some time to figure out the best way to hold the Annual Congregation meeting. Today we are holding the meeting via zoom or phone, with 42 voting members present.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Debra led us in prayer. The Bishop of the Synod asked the clergy to share a special prayer with their congregations this Sunday.

Review and Approval of the May 19, 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes: Jim Haas moved to accept the May 19, 2019 minutes as written, seconded by Barb Regent. No further discussion or questions, motion carries to accept the minutes.

Reflection from Ted Lazaris Council President: Ted was really gratified on how many members were attending this meeting, this is one of our largest meetings for Adoration. The year 2020 has been so trying, difficult and challenging in many ways. Our church has been closed since March. The Coronavirus pandemic at the end of August is still directing our lives. In the face of adversity Adoration has bonded together to do the work God has wanted us to do.

Ted reported on what has been happening the last six months since the church has been closed and to thank everyone for the work they are doing since the closure of the church.

- Church Council continues to meet via zoom every month to accomplish the work needed to be done during this new normal.
- Call Committee also is meeting via zoom, working on getting a new Pastor for Adoration.
- Created a Back in the Building Task Force: This committee was created to determine what our needs will be when we are back in church. Members of this task force are Wendy Haas, Deanna Posig, Tom Nowakowski, Janet McGinty, Pastor Debra, Kathy Wakefield will be a consultant and the committee will be chaired by Barb Regent.
- Members working on our behalf:
 - Barb and Rich Regent- check on the church everyday and keep the church in shape both inside and outside the facility.
 - George Becker and the grass cutting crew.
 - Janet McGinty for coming in and doing computer entry work.
 - Bob Yersin for writing the checks every week.
 - Sharon Anderson for getting the mail daily and addressing the issues as needed and for helping us get the stimulus loan.

- Jim Haas zoom guru, he helped all the members with zoom whether it was by phone, tablet or computer.
- Kathy Wakefield for working on Adoration's membership voting roles with Pastor Debra.
- Tim Schmidt for installing five bricks in the walkway.
- Katie Schmidt organized Adoration's virtual online auction.
- Pastor Debra- thanks for working with all the committees and groups via zoom. Thank you for your weekly online prayers and sermons, they have been well received.
- Thank you to all congregation members. You continue to keep up with your offerings, special collections and continued prayers for one another and our church. Prayers continue to move us forward. Grateful to be part of the church and looking forward to a new chapter at Adoration.
- Pastor Debra would like to thank Ted during this time. Ted has many hours on zoom meetings. He has gone to church when needed to attend to unexpected situations. Adoration is blessed to have Ted during the pandemic to control of any and all situations.
- **Brief Review of the Congregation's Finances:** Sharon reported everyone has been incredibly good about continuing to send in their pledges as the church remains closed. We have a negative balance of \$8494.00 at the end of August but we were able to obtain a small business loan for \$27,000. We have not had to use any of this money to date. Once US Banks open, the forgiveness application should be totally forgiven. The total in the bank is \$69,000. With the church being closed the utility bills are not as high.
- **Brief Review of the Building:**
 - Tom Nowakowski would like to thank Barb and Rich Regent for doing the tasks that are normally done by the Building and Grounds committee during this pandemic.
 - There was a wasp issue on the west end of the building- a company came out to take care of the situation. If the wasps return we have a guarantee until the end of the year.
 - We need to replace the hot water heater and we would like to order a fifty gallon heater. This issue will be brought to Council for discussion and approval.
- **Update from Call Committee Chair:** Sandy Young stated they met August 24, 2020 via zoom with Pastor Kristin to receive their final instructions before they receive their candidates. They received one candidate at this time and the Call committee met August 29, 2020 via zoom to review the Rostered Minister Profile and set up their first interview for September 2, 2020. In the meantime they received another Rostered Minister Profile which they will review and set up another interview for September 14, 2020.

- **Update from Back in the Building Task Force:** Barb Regent gave an update. First of all closing the building was easier than figuring out how to reopen. We are trying to do things to keep members connected during this time, sending out the sermon in various ways: paper, audio, website and email. Groups made phone calls to various people and created a zoom social hour on Sundays.

“What’s Next Task Force” was formed and consisted of Pastor Debra, Ted Lazaris, Jim Haas and Barb Regent. Our main concern was the age of our congregation. We measured the sanctuary, figured out distancing and found out only 35 people could attend at a time with face masks. We would have to do contact tracing and supply hand sanitizer. We decided staying home was our best option. Through a series of discussions and input from people of other faith communities we decided we could do drive through communion. This has been successful; we see about 60 members for communion. We will be having another drive through communion September 13, 2020.

Now we want to know what we have to do to get back into the building and how to accomplish this task. Back in the Building Task Force Committee has been created. A packet of documentation and guidelines for resuming in church services, has been sent out to each member of this committee. Our first meeting will be September 3, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via zoom. We will be following guidelines provided by ELCA Greater Milwaukee Synod.

There has been no decision on a date yet to enter church. We will need to decide some of the following issues:

- We will figure out what members will need to do to enter back into church.
- Discuss the best way to clean our church and who will do this task.
- What supplies are necessary.
- How members will enter and exit the building.
- How many members can attend at one time.
- How often should services be held.

Any recommendations they make will be reviewed by the church Council for final decisions for the safety of the church and members.

Re-Election of Council Members: Two members of the Council are up for election of a second three-year term, Sean McGinty and Cheryl Stefanski. Ted asked if there were any new nominations from the floor to serve on Council. There were no nominations from the floor. Voting was done via zoom. Sean McGinty displayed a voting form on the screen for members to vote. Members will select their options and submit their answers. Members on the phone will be receiving a mail in ballot. The online vote results will be held open with the totals until

the mail in ballots are counted with the results from zoom. The election will be held open until all mail in ballots are received.

Announcements:

- Katie Schmidt has setup an on-line auction for Adoration. This on-line auction will remain open until 11:59 p.m. September 11, 2020. September 12, 2020 winners will be contacted. If you are a winner you can pick up your item during the Curbside Communion service September 13, 2020, Katie will have a station set up for payment and to pick up your item.
- Barb Regent wanted on record that she submitted an annual report to the church office for the Worship and Music Committee.

Adjournment: Jim Haas moved to adjourn the meeting, Sue Clark seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 12:02 p.m., followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recorder

Cheryl Stefanski

Pastor's Report to the Congregation Annual Meeting 2021

In a recent article, I came across a reflection about spiritual writer and priest Henri Nouwen. *“He prayed better in places where a lot of prayers had been said. In a church sanctuary, when we yearn for connection between the Divine and the human, we draw upon the work that others have done.”* Surely the sanctuary spaces of our churches aren't the only places where God's presence can be found, but as we begin our grace-full return to in-person worship and move ever closer to weekly public gatherings amid these new stages of pandemic, I look forward to being your pastor, in the holy space where over the life of Adoration, we know many prayers have been said.

Only a few months into our mutual call, I am grateful for your welcome and am enjoying getting to know you, both collectively and through one-on-ones. It is my main priority to get to know you all—both through worship, but also through conversations. I'm excited to hear your stories about what God is doing both in your lives and at Adoration.

As we look ahead toward the second half of 2021, I want to share with you three main priorities I, along with the Council and leaders, will continue to work on as we follow God's vision for Adoration and how we live and serve in the world.

- 1. Focus on Stewardship:** Wendy Haas and her passion for stewardship education led to a strong campaign amidst the pandemic. The Church Council has approved Adoration's participation in a synod-wide virtual cohort of congregations looking to Build a Culture of Generosity, where we will gain wisdom and insight into how to more efficiently and faithfully engage in stewardship to support the mission and ministries of Adoration!
- 2. Communication and Transparency:** Pastor Debra Trakel did a great job in focusing the council, MET, and Call committees on the importance of consistent and healthy communication! We will continue this work, focusing on the development of a Communication Tree/Map and doing Council work focusing on how we might form a culture of communication that aims to create goodness and reflect our congregation's values.
- 3. Education, Worship, and a Post-COVID future:** As COVID-19 has impacted nearly every area of our lives, I hope to work with committees and council leaders to begin the process of discernment as to what the future of adult and youth education, evangelism, and communication and outreach look like.

I ask you to join me in giving thanks for the service and dedication of outgoing council members Jim Haas, Kathy Wakefield, and Sean McGinty. Their dedication to Adoration is admirable, and they have helped lead through the transition and bring us to this place.

I look forward to continuing to know you and work alongside you as we share the call of the Holy Spirit and share the good news with all creation.

God's Peace,
Pastor Matt Schlake-Kruse

Worship Coordinator's Report on behalf of the Worship and Music Committee

Annual Report – May 2020 – April 2021

The entire committee did not meet during this time period due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, a series of Special Task Forces were put together and met on Zoom. Below is a list of the highlights of our past year. It may not seem like much was happening during this time period – but much was going on behind the scenes to keep the people of Adoration together as the people of God, in the name of the one Most High.

A. **Accomplishing Worship in the time of the COVID-19 Pandemic:**

1. **Audio and Video Services** were provided on our web site, Face Book, and Phone-a-sermon Service provided by All Clients. Special thanks to Pastor Matthew Schlake-Kruse, Pastor Debra Trakel, and Barb Regent for making the files. Thanks to Rich Regent for converting the files as needed to .mp3 format.
2. **Hard Copies of these services** – were mailed to members who do not have internet capabilities. Thanks Amanda Robison and helpers.
3. **Weekly news updates** – were e-mailed and mailed by post to all members.
4. **Drive-Thru Communion Events** were held – so people would have access to Holy Communion. Nineteen of these events were scheduled. This was accomplished through a great team of volunteers including Jennifer Anderson, George and Gloria Becker, Sue Clark, Jim and Wendy Haas, Jessica Hodgson, Ted and Mardy Lazaris, Sean and Janet McGinty, Sandy Ringwall, Dan and Cheryl Stefanski, Bob and Connie Yersin, Barb and Rich Regent, Pastor Matt Schlake-Kruse, and Pastor Debra Trakel. All were willing to stand out there in all kinds of weather to share this blessed meal with you.
5. **Special Collections** – were taken to help our neighbors.
6. **Phone Calls** – were done to check up on each other.
7. **Zoom Social Hours** – were held almost every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. to interact socially.
8. **Prayer Circle** – had 50 requests for the entire year of 2020 and 23 requests so far in 2021, per Judy Goodwin.
9. **The Reverend Matthew Schlake-Kruse** – was called and joined us as Pastor of the people Adoration on March 15, 2021. We were able to welcome and meet him for the first time on Zoom.
10. **The Reverend Debra Trakel** – left us as Interim Pastor on February 15, 2021, for a new call.

B. **Advent and Christmas Task Force** – consisting of Wendy Haas, Ted Lazaris, Janet McGinty, Barb Regent, Katie Schmidt, and Pastor Debra Trakel was formed to plan for these events. We met three times.

1. **Advent Services** – A special brief liturgy was developed and presented on the Zoom Social Hour on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. It included the lighting of the Advent wreath and a musical performance of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” by Barb Regent, piano keyboard; Rich Regent, clarinet; Katie Schmidt, flute. A special scripture reading from The Message was done each week by a person dressed as a character in the story; followed by “wonderings”; questions such as “why did God choose me?”. Characters included John the Baptist played by Ted Lazaris, Elizabeth by Jeanette Nowakowski, Mary by Jenna Bednar, and Joseph by Alex Timmerman.
2. **Drive-Thru Communion Events** – held on **December 6th** – special collection for Hope House – toys, linens, and gift cards and on **December 20th** where the special collection was written notes of what are we the people of Adoration are longing for, hoping for, and yearning for - in the year ahead.
3. **Decorating** – Outdoor Wooden Nativity Scene and lighting was set up, door wreaths installed, and battery-operated candles put in each window.
4. **Christmas Caroling** – was done by phone – three-way phone calls to Russ Schwoch, Bob Bauer, and Mary Ann Markiewicz by Janet and Sean McGinty on one line, Barb and Rich Regent on a second line, and the shut-in on a third line. We sang “Joy to the World”, “Away in a Manger”, “Silent Night” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”.

5. **Christmas Eve – Outdoor Drive-In Service was held at 4:30 p.m.** An abbreviated liturgy was written, carols were sung, and the message was delivered. We had helpers who did contact tracing, car parking, audio system set-up, lead singers, collected offerings, handed out battery operated candles. Helpers included The McGinty family, Jim and Wendy Haas, George and Gloria Becker, Jen Anderson, Barb and Rich Regent, and Pastor Debra Trakel – presided.

C. **Lent and Easter Task Force** – consisting of Jim and Wendy Haas, Ted Lazaris, Janet McGinty, Deanna Posig, Barb Regent, Pastor Matt Schlake-Kruse, Katie Schmidt. We met three times.

1. **Lent**

a. **Gospel Reflections** for the interim time between Pastor Debra leaving and Pastor Matt coming were provided by Gloria Becker, Jill Lindberg, Jeanette Nowakowski, and Barb Regent.

b. **Lenten Sermons and Special Wednesday Psalm reading audio files** were made available on the web site and phone-a-sermon call-in service.

c. **Ash Wednesday** was celebrated on February 17, 2021 with **Drive-Thru Events** held at 11:00 a.m. to Noon and 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. with contact tracers Ted and Mardy Lazaris at the early time slot and Jim and Wendy Haas at the late time slot. Rich Regent assisted at the Ash Distribution Station by handing out the Ash Wednesday prayer cards and collecting offerings; while Barb Regent did the distribution of ashes and blessings. Audio File of the special Ash Wednesday liturgy was made available on the web site and phone-a-sermon call-in service.

2. **Holy Week**

a. **Palm/Passion Sunday Drive-Thru Event** was held on Sunday, March 28^a – we had five stations – Palm Distribution, Last Supper, Holy Communion Distribution, Garden of Gethsemane and Betrayal, and The Cross – each station was decorated with meaningful symbols and a reader read the words of the Passion Gospel. Helpers included George and Gloria Becker, Wendy and Jim Haas, Deanna Posig, Ted and Mardy Lazaris, Connor and Katie Schmidt, Sue Clark, Sandy Ringwall, Rich and Barb Regent, and Pastor Matt Schlake-Kruse presided. Palm Sunday audio files were provided.

b. **Maundy Thursday** – Abbreviated liturgy was provided to Pastor Matt by Barb Regent along with musical recording files to use in the Maundy Thursday “service” – these audio files were uploaded to the web site and phone-a-sermon site. Pastor Matt also created a video on You Tube – linked to our web site.

c. **Good Friday** – Abbreviated liturgy was provided to Pastor Matt by Barb Regent along with musical recording files to use in the Good Friday “service” – these audio files were uploaded to the web site and phone-a-sermon site. Pastor Matt also participated in the St. Alphonsus Ecumenical Service and a You Tube video was created and linked to our web site.

d. **Easter Vigil** – a file of slides was linked to our web site to participate in an Easter Vigil.

e. **Easter Sunday Drive-In Service** was held on Sunday, April 4^a - An abbreviated liturgy was written, hymns were sung, the message was delivered. We had helpers who did contact tracing, car parking, audio system set-up, lead singers, collected offerings, handed out Holy Communion. Helpers included Jim and Wendy Haas, Ted Lazaris, Sandy Ringwall, Jen Anderson, Deanna and Rebecca Posig, Jessica Hodgson, Barb and Rich Regent, and Pastor Matthew Schlake-Kruse – presided. Audio files were provided on the web site and phone-a-sermon site.

D. **B.I.B. (Back in the Building) Task Force** – was formed in August of 2020.

1. **Starting on Sunday, March 15, 2020, the church building was shut and no services, no meetings, no classes, etc. were held in-person, due to the “Safer at Home” initiative.**

2. **Vacant Building** – daily and weekly checks were performed continually to keep the building in good repair.

3. **What’s Next Task Force** - was formed in May 2020, consisting of Ted Lazaris, Jim Haas, Barb Regent and Pastor Debra Trakel. We decided to take a slow and thoughtful approach keeping an eye on the latest statistics and decided it was not yet time to resume indoor worship. Finally agreed to start up Drive-Thru Communion Events. First two sessions were held on August 2 and August 23. We used pre-packaged communion elements, wore masks, did contact tracing, stayed in cars and had helpers to facilitate these events.

4. Starting on **Sunday, March 22, 2020** - the audio files for the Gospel, Prayers, and Sermons were made available on our church web-site at adorationlc.org. Pastor Debra recorded them from home and the files were converted to mp3 format and uploaded to the web site by Rich Regent. The site featured holy pictures and liturgical matching colors to go with each week. This service was continued through the present time. In the transition period Barb Regent recorded these audio files. Pastor Matt Schlake-Kruse continues these files since March 21, 2021. Hard copies were made available to those without internet service. Pastor Matt also started doing video files of the services, including having volunteers do the readings and prayers of the church.
 5. The **Back in the Building Task Force** consisting of Jim and Wendy Haas, Ted Lazaris, Janet McGinty, Tom Nowakowski, Deanna Posig, Pastor Matt Schlake-Kruse, and Pastor Debra Trakel met a total of 8 times starting on September 3, 2020, through our last meeting on April 21, 2021. After reading hundreds of pages of guidelines from the government and health authorities, discussing every aspect of safety and concerns we had, reviewing the statistics, and the advent of vaccinations – it was decided we could finally get back in our building on May 9, 2021 for a 9:00 a.m. service and on May 12, 2021 for a 6:15 p.m. service. Rules were decided and put into place – including a registration web site, contact tracing station, hand sanitizing stations, Plexiglas shields, taping areas to maintain social distancing, mask wearing conditions and signage, communion and offering stations, cleaning teams, and scheduling of helpers. Awaiting results of this effort. The Council had set aside funds to facilitate this and we received a grant from the Synod to help in this effort.
- E. **Meetings, Seminars, Training** – many members of Adoration, attended the synod’s “Together in Mission” event via Zoom on three Saturdays in February 2021 – the 13th, 20th, and 27th. All sessions dealt with ideas of doing outdoor worship, difficulties in the pandemic, how do we get back in our buildings, and other ideas people had for staying connected with their congregations and serving their neighbors.
- F. **Copyright Licensing** – our copyright licenses at One License and CCLI license were upgraded to Streaming/Podcast licenses to allow us to do audio and video files that included hymns and songs.
- G. **Phone-a-sermon Service** – was started for those without internet access could call in and hear the audio recordings of the sermons, gospels, and special liturgies. The Service is provided by All Clients and the phone number access is provided by Twilio. Members can call in and a menu of extension selections is provided. The number is 414-250-0312.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the many people at Adoration who worked so diligently to make worship happen, even in a pandemic, especially Pastor Debra and Pastor Matt. For those who participated in our worship events and the generous giving of their gifts from God to continue our mission. Most of all we thank God for these many blessings showered on the People of Adoration as we continue “The Journey” together...even though, for now, it may be through e-mail, regular mail, phone calls, Zoom, prayers, the church web-site, etc. – instead of our physical presence together as the body of Christ.

Submitted by Barbara Regent, – Worship Coordinator of Adoration, 5/07/2021.

STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY FOR ANNUAL MEETING 2021

Members: Kathleen Wakefield, Barbara Regent, Jill Lindberg, George Becker, Wendy Haas (chair)

We initiated our Fall Stewardship Drive.
Our pledges fell significantly short of our budget.

We initiated a secondary Stewardship Drive.

The congregation searched their hearts and some did the following: Increased their pledges. Gave some or all of their stimulus check to the church. Gave a one time large donation.

FIRST Stewardship Drive = \$135,179 as of 12/22/20

SECOND Stewardship Drive increased the total pledge amount to = \$155,580

Meetings were held on Zoom. We had to be creative about connecting to the congregation via recorded and written Temple Talks. We carried out the tasks needed to mail out pledge cards and thank you cards virtually, yet, mindfully. I could not have asked for a better group of people to help lead a Stewardship campaign in a COVID year.

This year, the Stewardship committee plans on learning from a synod Stewardship program called BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY.

It will educate and guide congregations toward a learning mode of generosity. We are incredibly blessed with the people who served on the Stewardship committee and gave of themselves in many ways to further the kingdom of God, via Adoration.

We move onward in faith knowing God is walking with us.

Wendy Haas Stewardship Chair

Partnership Update for 2020-2021- Submitted by Gloria Becker **2020**

6/15/20 We sent \$800. (\$50 for flood appeal and \$750 for undesignated funds). These were in our account from individual contributors specifically for Mulala.

11/1/20. We sent \$2895.02 to Mulala. (\$1289.01 was for the Meru Diocese from our Partnership Sunday collection on Sept 27, 2020. PLUS matching funds from an individual Adoration member and other miscellaneous money collected. \$50 for Emergency Relief Fund went to the Diocese and \$27 for Cans for Malaria.)

12/3/20. We sent \$557 to Mulala from Sunday School donations plus individual donations to be used for their Educational Scholarships.

The total for 2020 from June to Dec is \$4,252.02

2021

5/15/21. We will be wiring \$2,000 for Nurses Salaries from the money collected at our May 2, 2021 Curbside Communion service.