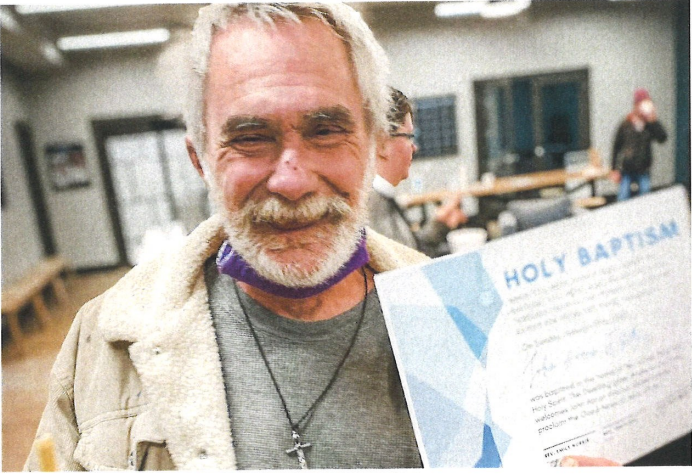
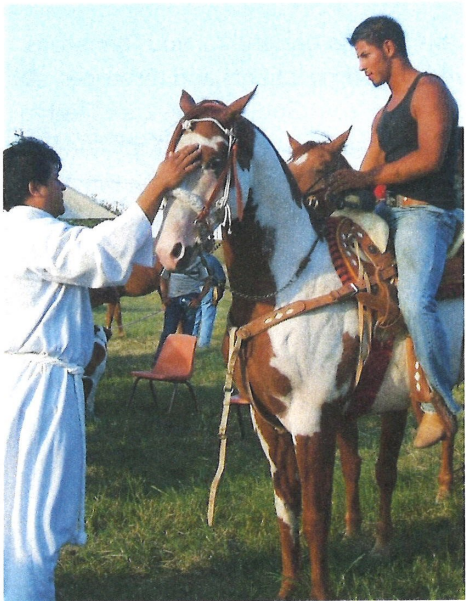


# ANNUAL REPORT

2021



## Annual Report of the Congregation Christ the King Lutheran Church Bozeman, Montana 2021



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.





## A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth  
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

The last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic. Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may never have walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how vital they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities.

The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.

While we stay rooted in God's enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings.

Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."



January 5, 2022

Dear Followers of Christ in the MT/NWY Synod,

God's blessings of life, love and hope be with you and your ministries as we move into 2022 together.

A few weeks ago, I listened to a psychologist share her insights about the trauma we have been experiencing the past two years due to Covid-19 and other societal stressors. "Whiplash" was the word that stuck with me as she described the continuous effects of responding to the events gripping our lives. As she spoke, I envisioned the past 22 months as riding a never-ending rollercoaster, being whipped back and forth as the journey twisted and turned, went sideways and upside down. Just when we thought things were slowing down and getting better, just when we were starting to catch our breath, then another covid variant showed up or another crisis happened and we were whiplashed back into fear mode, our bodies and brains, emotions and spirits seeking safety from what we perceived as yet another threat. There never seemed to be any opportunity to stop and recover before the next event came along.

The psychologist described how the physical, mental, and emotional effects of this continuous whiplash accumulate in us as individuals and as communities and we start to feel like we're constantly in fight, flight, or freeze mode, always on edge, ready to react, unable to look forward to the future. But at the same time, as our bodies get overloaded, we start to feel sluggish and apathetic, without energy to do anything. And we forget basic things like why we walked into a room or why I almost fed myself my cat's food by mistake. (Yes, that really happened!) Many of us just don't feel like ourselves right now.

I think the most important thing I took away from this presentation was that this reaction to the long-term whiplash trauma so many of us are experiencing is normal. If you've been feeling this way, you are experiencing what most of us are experiencing and it is natural to be experiencing it. It's not good or healthy for us or for our communities as we try to live together, but it is a normal reaction to what our society is going through right now as our brains and bodies try to protect us.

So, knowing that most people are struggling to hang in there, how do we as followers of Christ approach the new year, especially as we are making decisions for the future of our congregations and the wider church? I offer three suggestions:

1. Space and patience. We need to give ourselves and others, including our ministry leaders, the space to rest and recover. And we need to be patient with ourselves and one another as we find our ways through this. Expecting an immediate recovery from this prolonged whiplash trauma is not realistic – our bodies and minds just don't heal that fast. So whether alone or in worship, whether in council meetings or bible studies, whether in seeking discernment or holding things together, take the space and time to breathe, pray, lament, rejoice, and be in relationship with and care for one another, being kind to each other in all that you do and say.
2. Forgiveness. This prolonged whiplash trauma has put a lot of us on edge, too ready to take out our anxiety or anger on others without realizing it. Managing our emotional

reactions is important during this time. But because people are more on edge, that self-management is harder to do. So let us seek to practice forgiveness, both of ourselves and others, in the way Christ calls us to while at the same time treating one another as we want to be treated. As Jesus responded to Peter's question of how often he should forgive someone who sins against him, 'Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy times seven times.' (Mt 18:22)

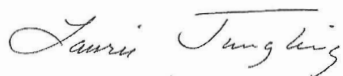
3. Faith. Faith is first and foremost trust in the God of Jesus Christ who loves us and not only wants our well-being but is actively seeking to bring that well-being to us in so many ways. Trusting in God does not mean we don't feel fear or anxiety about the uncertainty in our lives. It does not mean denying the real struggles we are going through. We're human; of course, we'll feel these things. Faith is trusting that God is indeed with us on this rollercoaster ride AND is guiding us through the twists and turns toward the new life Jesus promises, not just in the next life but even now. So, as you think about the next year, seek the faith to take a step forward into who God is calling you to be or what God is calling you to do. Maybe it will be a big step, maybe a small step. But I encourage you and your ministry to take a step forward into a new possibility that God may be leading you to explore.

In this spirit of faith and hope for gathering folks together, the synod will be stepping forward into an *in-person* Synod Assembly once again this spring. The theme is "Equipping for the Gospel" and we will be meeting at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center in Billings on June 3 & 4, 2022. We will be experimenting with a slightly different schedule that will allow some of you to return home Saturday evening; but given the size of the synod, some of you will still need to spend an extra night in Billings (at a hotel where there's a waterslide!) or on the road somewhere.

Finally, a note on the financial situation of the synod as we approach the new fiscal year. Like many of your ministries, the synod is hanging in there, finding ways to make it work as some months of mission support are better than others. Thank you for the ongoing generosity many of you have shown in your gifts to support the mission of the MT/NWY Synod as we work together to equip the followers of Christ in the ministry of the gospel! As you are exploring your own financial realities for the coming year, I invite you to consider increasing your support as you are able in the service of the Christ's ministry across the synod.

May God bless you with hope and resilience for 2022!

In Christ's Love,



Rev. Laurie Jungling  
Bishop, Montana/N. Wyoming Synod

## President's Letter

Grace and Peace to all Christ the King members and friends.

It has been a great honor and pleasure to serve as the president of our CtK church council this past year. I want to thank the pastors and staff for all they do, seen and unseen. I also want to recognize my fellow council members and all of you that have volunteered your many talents and time. Our congregation's spirit of generosity is what makes our church such a welcoming community.

Our mission statement is, "We are a Christian community practicing discipleship as we worship, learn and serve." I love that we recite it at the end of each service. It speaks to me of the ongoing commitment of our church community to provide these opportunities.

The Covid Pandemic remained a major topic in the country and world. Navigating the best way to deal with it as a church was again on the agenda at 2021 council meetings. As you all know, there are various opinions on what is best. We as a council felt a strong responsibility to keep people safe, while respecting everyone's rights to their opinions. We are not medical experts but have relied on local health officials for guidance. We feel that as a Christian church we need to be welcoming and respectful to all. And not just welcoming, but INVITATIONAL to all to join us in worshipping the Lord and serving others.

We are happy to have started in-person worship while keeping online services available. We believe coming together as a community to worship the Lord is what called to do and are pleased our in-person attendance has continued to grow. We INVITE all of you to come to the church building and worship. We love to see all of you. We again had our outdoor services last summer to help with Covid safety, but also to be invitational to our larger Bozeman community. Seeing us out there worshipping is a form of discipleship.

We would also like to INVITE everyone to continue on your life of learning path. There are many opportunities provided: Adult Forum, Sunday School, Confirmation classes, Youth Group, Young Adult group, Kindle clusters, Bible Studies, book groups and prayer groups.

Service to the church, community and the world is something we as Christians are called to do. We IN-

VITE everyone to participate. There are many groups at church to join. There are even more in our city, state, and world. I am so pleased to be a member of a church that is involved. We have many people that serve in many capacities to make our church function. We serve our local community and state by helping provide for the Food Bank, the Shelf at High Schools, HRDC, Family Promise, Help Center, Haven, Montana Synod of the ELCA and Christmas gifts for Meadowlark Elementary School families in need. Our quilting and prayer shawl groups provide quality gifts to many local and state wide charities. We participate in World Hunger Relief, partner with churches in Bolivia and do a Packathon for Haitian children. We were able to partner with Hope Lutheran for this year's Packathon. We enjoyed much community support and over 75,000 meals were packed.



Our congregation again showed its spirit of generosity this year when approached by Trinity Church, who are building next door, about partnering on a path. It was decided we would provide them an easement across the back of our property to build the path. This will be a great benefit to the local school children and our entire community for years to come.

Praise the Lord for all he does for us and through us for others. We are truly blessed by his grace. I again want to thank the entire congregation for all you do to practice discipleship. Please accept this INVITATION to worship, learn and serve with us here at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

Yours in Christ,  
George Polansky

## 2021 Congregational Statistics

### Baptisms

4/4 Jaxon Miles Berkland  
4/4 August William Ziegelman  
6/6 Tatum Marie Pedersen  
8/22 Anna Lillian Haugan  
9/5 Jasper Viggo Linn

### Weddings

6/6 Mariah Erin Buster and Julian Bradford Gaub  
10/9 Shawna Leigh Pratt and George Addison Platt II

### Members Removed by Transfer/Request

Julian and Mariah Gaub  
Sharon Erickson

### Membership

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Bapt.</u> | <u>Conf.</u> | <u>Quorum</u> |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2021        | 386          | 290          | 73            |
| 2020        | 381          | 293          | 73            |
| 2019        | 369          | 285          | 71            |
| 2018        | 352          | 271          | 67            |
| 2017        | 330          | 259          | 64            |
| 2016        | 305          | 240          | 60            |

## Nominating Committee Report

*submitted by the 2021 Nominating Committee:  
Patsy Olmstead, George Polansky, Tim McNicholas, Stefanie Lohse*

CtK Council President (one-year term):  
Barbara Nolan

Council (three-year terms):  
Nicole Anderson, Barry Jeide, Katie Keehr

Synod Assembly Voting Members:  
Marc and Lisa Beck

Christikon Corporation Delegates:  
Ian and Leah Anderson

Audit Committee:  
Mark Gilbertson, George Polansky

2022 Nominating Committee:  
George Polansky, Mark Ramseth, Kat Ulgenes





Christ the King  
Lutheran Church

# 2022 Spending Plan

Congregational Meeting 2022

## 2022 Spending Plan Summary

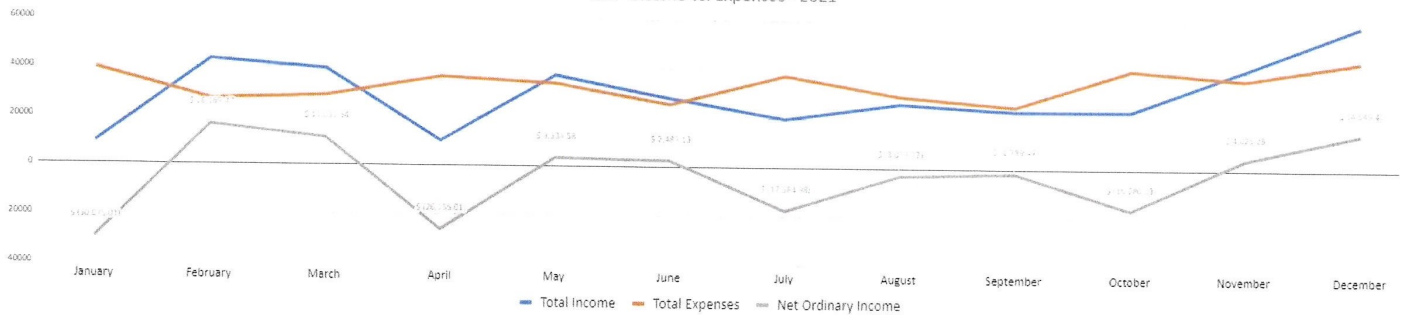


|              |                                      | 2021<br>Spending<br>Plan | 2021 Year<br>End Actual<br>Spending | %<br>Spending/<br>Plan | 2022<br>Spending<br>Plan | Spending<br>Change<br>2021 →<br>2022 | % Change<br>(from<br>2021) |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Total</b> |                                      | <b>\$440,946</b>         | <b>\$398,201</b>                    | <b>90%</b>             | <b>\$471,203</b>         | <b>\$30,257</b>                      | <b>7%</b>                  |
| 5000         | Compensation                         | \$316,991                | \$257,154                           | 81%                    | \$324,841                | \$7,850                              | 2%                         |
| 6100         | Operations                           | \$16,900                 | \$15,441                            | 91%                    | \$16,207                 | -\$693                               | -4%                        |
| 6200         | Building & Grounds/ Property         | \$26,450                 | \$34,332                            | 130%                   | \$35,800                 | \$9,350                              | 35%                        |
| 6300         | Ministry - Faith Formation/Education | \$16,955                 | \$15,443                            | 91%                    | \$19,105                 | \$2,150                              | 13%                        |
| 6400         | Ministry - Worship                   | \$6,570                  | \$7,945                             | 121%                   | \$7,170                  | \$600                                | 9%                         |
| 6500         | Ministry - Service and Fellowship    | \$2,450                  | \$1,573                             | 64%                    | \$2,500                  | \$50                                 | 2%                         |
| 6600         | Mission Support/Benevolence          | \$36,650                 | \$47,138                            | 129%                   | \$44,150                 | \$7,500                              | 20%                        |
| 6800         | Administrative                       | \$17,980                 | \$19,173                            | 107%                   | \$21,430                 | \$3,450                              | 19%                        |

# 2021 Spending Results



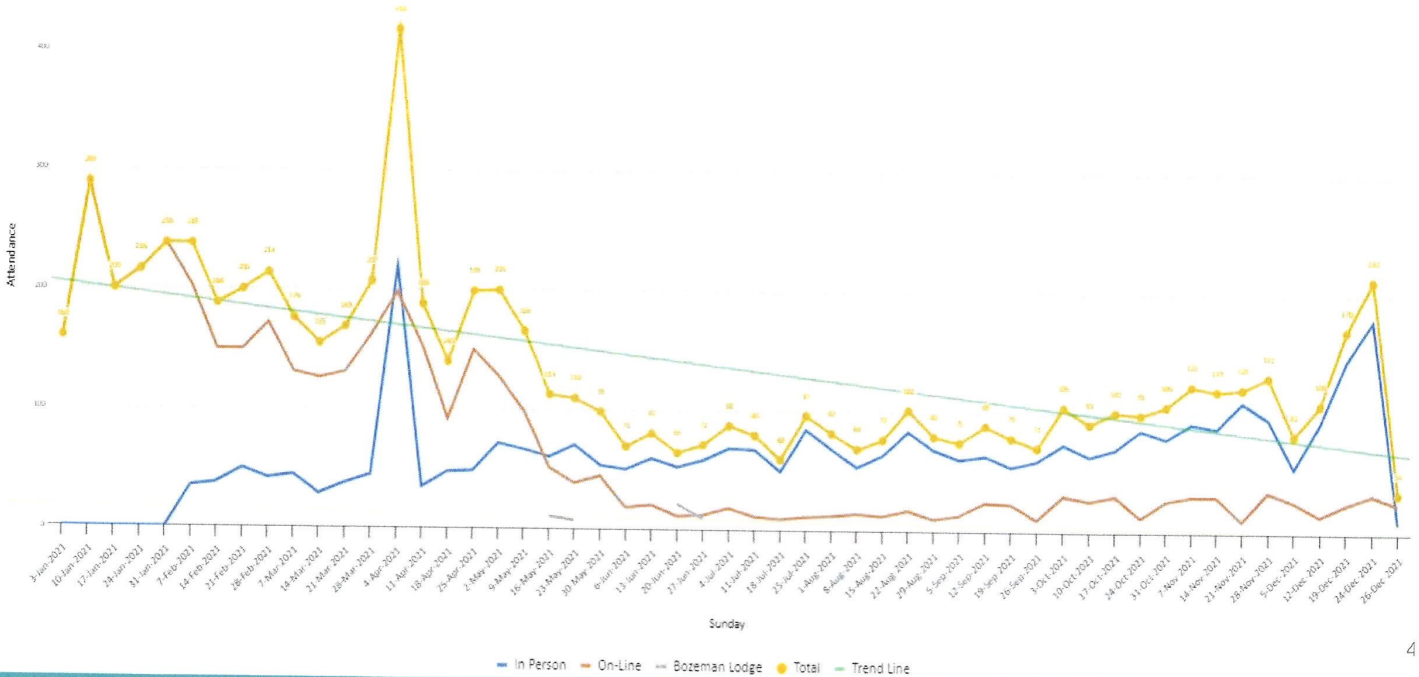
CtK - Income vs. Expenses - 2021



CtK Account Balance



# 2021 Attendance





## Compensation

|             |                     | <b>2021<br/>Spending<br/>Plan</b> | <i>2021 Year End<br/>Actual Spending</i> | <i>% Spending/<br/>Plan</i> | <b>2022<br/>Spending<br/>Plan</b> | <i>Spending<br/>Change<br/>2021 → 2022</i> | <i>% Change<br/>(from<br/>2021)</i> |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>5000</b> | <b>Compensation</b> | <b>\$316,991</b>                  | \$257,154                                | 81%                         | <b>\$324,841</b>                  | \$7,850                                    | 2%                                  |

- ~5% increase in pastor compensation
- Use budget of Youth Minister moving to part-time for Children's Ministry lead
- Increased Custodian wages

5

## Operations

|             |                   | <b>2021<br/>Spending<br/>Plan</b> | <i>2021 Year End<br/>Actual Spending</i> | <i>% Spending/<br/>Plan</i> | <b>2022<br/>Spending<br/>Plan</b> | <i>Spending<br/>Change<br/>2021 → 2022</i> | <i>% Change<br/>(from<br/>2021)</i> |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>6100</b> | <b>Operations</b> | <b>\$16,900</b>                   | \$15,441                                 | 91%                         | <b>\$16,207</b>                   | -\$693                                     | -4%                                 |

- Seeing savings from solar power
- Increases in gas rates

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## Building & Grounds / Property

|      |   | <b>2021<br/>Spending<br/>Plan</b> | <i>2021 Year<br/>End Actual<br/>Spending</i> | <i>% Spending/<br/>Plan</i> | <b>2022<br/>Spending<br/>Plan</b> | <i>Spending<br/>Change<br/>2021 → 2022</i> | <i>% Change<br/>(from<br/>2021)</i> |
|------|---|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 6200 | <b>Building &amp; Grounds/ Property</b> | \$26,450                          | \$34,332                                     | 130%                        | \$35,800                          | \$9,350                                    | 35%                                 |

- Increased insurance rates
- Snow removal increased for public path
- Painting
- Paying for 2nd half of main church sign

7

## Ministry - Faith Formation/Education

|      |   | <b>2021<br/>Spending<br/>Plan</b> | <i>2021 Year<br/>End Actual<br/>Spending</i> | <i>% Spending/<br/>Plan</i> | <b>2022<br/>Spending<br/>Plan</b> | <i>Spending<br/>Change<br/>2021 → 2022</i> | <i>% Change<br/>(from<br/>2021)</i> |
|------|---|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 6300 | <b>Ministry - Faith<br/>Formation/Education</b> | \$16,955                          | \$15,443                                     | 91%                         | \$19,105                          | \$2,150                                    | 13%                                 |

- Some increase in education materials
- Payments for 2022 ELCA youth convention
- Accounting for Erickson Memorial expenditures

8

## Ministry - Worship

|      |                    | <b>2021<br/>Spending<br/>Plan</b> | <i>2021 Year<br/>End Actual<br/>Spending</i> | <i>% Spending/<br/>Plan</i> | <b>2022<br/>Spending<br/>Plan</b> | <i>Spending<br/>Change<br/>2021 → 2022</i> | <i>% Change<br/>(from<br/>2021)</i> |
|------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 6400 | Ministry - Worship | \$6,570                           | \$7,945                                      | 121%                        | \$7,170                           | \$600                                      | 9%                                  |

- In 2021 we purchased a new electric piano for outdoor worship and new hymnals
- Provision for sound system in 2022 if we continue outdoor summer worship

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## Ministry - Service and Fellowship

|      |                                   | <b>2021<br/>Spending<br/>Plan</b> | <i>2021 Year<br/>End Actual<br/>Spending</i> | <i>% Spending/<br/>Plan</i> | <b>2022<br/>Spending<br/>Plan</b> | <i>Spending<br/>Change<br/>2021 → 2022</i> | <i>% Change<br/>(from<br/>2021)</i> |
|------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 6500 | Ministry - Service and Fellowship | \$2,450                           | \$1,573                                      | 64%                         | \$2,500                           | \$50                                       | 2%                                  |

- Planning for increased in-church fellowship in 2022

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## Mission Support/Benevolence

|      |                             | <b>2021<br/>Spending<br/>Plan</b> | <i>2021 Year<br/>End Actual<br/>Spending</i> | <i>% Spending/<br/>Plan</i> | <b>2022<br/>Spending<br/>Plan</b> | <i>Spending<br/>Change<br/>2021 → 2022</i> | <i>% Change<br/>(from<br/>2021)</i> |
|------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 6600 | Mission Support/Benevolence | \$36,650                          | \$47,138                                     | 129%                        | \$44,150                          | \$7,500                                    | 20%                                 |

- Increased benevolence in line with the 2021 general offerings
- 2021 giving higher than planned as 4th Quarter 2020 giving made in 1st Quarter 2021

## Administrative

|      |                | <b>2021<br/>Spending<br/>Plan</b> | <i>2021 Year<br/>End Actual<br/>Spending</i> | <i>% Spending/<br/>Plan</i> | <b>2022<br/>Spending<br/>Plan</b> | <i>Spending<br/>Change<br/>2021 → 2022</i> | <i>% Change<br/>(from<br/>2021)</i> |
|------|----------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 6800 | Administrative | \$17,980                          | \$19,173                                     | 107%                        | \$21,430                          | \$3,450                                    | 19%                                 |

- Provisions for computer replacement and 3rd party computer and network support
- Some increase from website hosting

## 2021 Giving through the Congregation –

| <u>2021 Spending Plan Benevolence</u>        | <u>Plan</u>    | <u>Pass Through</u> |
|--|----------------|---------------------|
| Christikon Bible Camp                        | \$1000         | \$1450              |
| Christikon Capital Campaign                  | \$750          | \$1150              |
| CtK Good Samaritan Fund                      | \$2054         |                     |
| ELCA Good Gifts (Christmas Ornaments)        |                | \$505               |
| ELCA Missionary Sponsorship                  | \$1000         | \$1000              |
| ELCA World Hunger                            |                | \$7161              |
| ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission          | \$1250         |                     |
| Family Promise of Gallatin Valley            | \$1000         | \$720               |
| Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry            | \$600          |                     |
| Future Forward for Haiti (Packathon)         | \$250          | \$2400              |
| Gallatin Valley Food Bank                    |                | \$936               |
| HAVEN (Shelter)                              | \$150          |                     |
| Help Center (Suicide Prevention)             | \$250          | \$750               |
| HS Shelf (BHS/GHS)                           |                | \$763               |
| HRDC (Fork & Spoon & Warming Center)         | \$1000         |                     |
| Love In the Name of Christ                   | \$600          |                     |
| Lutheran Campus Ministry – (MSU)             | \$2531         | \$2000              |
| Lutheran Campus Ministry – (UM)              |                | \$203               |
| Lutheran Social Services – (St. John's Min.) |                | \$375               |
| Lutheran World Relief (Disaster Response)    |                | \$175               |
| Montana Synod (% of General) –               | \$30925        |                     |
| Northern Rockies Institute of Theology       | \$600          | \$150               |
| <b>Total Given (Benevolence)</b>             | <b>\$44335</b> | <b>\$19363</b>      |

**Plan** = Gifts given from general funds received. These gifts are included in our Annual Spending Plan as our Mission and Ministry Support.

**Pass-Through** = Designated giving by members and others over and above the Annual Spending Plan.

*Ex.: In 2021 CtK sent \$1,720 to Family Promise, including \$1000 approved in our Annual Spending Plan, and \$720 in additional "pass-through" gifts.*

### Report from Pastor Lindean Barnett Christenson

*Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

- Isaiah 43:18-19

Beloved of God,

Once again, we can say, "What a year!" The world has not "bounced-back" from Covid as we once hoped it might, but through the grace of God we have persevered in faith and fellowship, with so many opportunities to worship, learn, and serve along the way. For this I thank God, and all of you—so many have been so generous with time, skills, financial resources and all the gifts God gives.

In 2021, we worshiped at home, in the sanctuary, on the lawn, at camp, on the go (*in a box, with a fox?*)... Perhaps the flexibility required of us has helped us remember to pray always and grow our capacity to notice connections between faith and daily life. Thank you to all who have helped with worship in the last year, musicians, readers, ushers, last-minute-Christmas-Eve preachers and leaders, and especially to the Dorrence, Beck, and Hornung households for working so hard every Sunday in the summer and fall

to make sure things were set up for outdoor worship—and to Gabby Dorrence for managing tech for streaming on Sunday mornings. Thanks to Ben von Ulrich and Dena Dokter for tending to additional elements of our weekly gathering—nearly every week. Thanks to our Worship & Arts Team for paying attention to the worship life of CtK, helping us sing new songs from our new hymnal and appreciate the ways visual arts can help us "hear" the story of God's love and life with us. Thanks to Tana Malmo, our Ministry & Media Coordinator for staying on the tech learning curve with a new church app (if you haven't downloaded it yet, do!), new website, and maintenance of our online presence.

In 2021, we had so many opportunities to learn, with ongoing small groups and Bible studies, new Kindle clusters, new books in the CtK library (and an online catalog to debut in early 2022), VBS, Youth Group and Sunday School... Thank you to all who facilitate that learning and those who know that God isn't done with us yet—there's always something to learn. And thanks to those who helped us enjoy life together in fellowship, with new events like "Bob Ross in a Box" and steady favorites like Advent Soup Suppers.

(Continued on page 19)

## **Report from Pastor Grant Barnett Christenson**

Grace to you and peace.

This past year was our second year of dealing with a global pandemic. Like 2020, it profoundly changed how we gathered as a Christian community of faith and it affected how we saw each other and care for one another.

My primary focus in 2021 was connecting with members and friends of the congregation through phone calls, texts, emails, written correspondence, and in person encounters whenever possible. Some attempts were successful, and I reported the results to council in my monthly reports to them. Some attempts were made but were not successful in connecting with members and friends of the congregation. I have reported with deep lament those results to council as well.

Because of my position at Bozeman Health, I was able to have access when a number of members were hospitalized over the summer. I have also visited members from other Lutheran congregations in the area when their ministers or lay people could not visit.

I was given the opportunity to help out American Lutheran in Livingston three times this past year with pulpit supply during a lengthy pastoral vacancy. I rejoiced when American Lutheran called Rev. Melissa Johansen to serve as their part time pastor in early fall. We welcome her as well as Rev. Heidi Hester at Hope Lutheran into the Crazy Mountain Cluster of the Montana Synod.

Working with another minister and our Lay Pastoral Associate John Sheppard, I coordinated ecumenical worship services at Bozeman Lodge where we have four members as residents. Bozeman Lodge has closed its door to outside visitors on a couple of occasions this past year that required suspending the ecumenical worship service for a period of time. In any case, the residents and staff at Bozeman Lodge appreciate a regular worship service on Sunday.

I was able to teach an on-line class on advanced pastoral care to lay pastoral associates in the Montana Synod, as well as co-facilitate a session on ministry boundaries to pastors and lay leaders in ELCA Region One. Thank you for letting me share my gifts with the wider church body in the Pacific Northwest.

As I look forward to ministry in 2022 I will continue to focus on connecting with the 155 families and households in the congregation. I have asked Pastor Lindean to help me reconstruct a congregational care team that will help in connecting with those families and households, as well as share in visitation and pastoral care when appropriate. This new team will be provided with emotional and spiritual support through regular meetings centered around intentional prayer, conversation, and reflection.

Earlier this month I launched an in person grief support group. It has felt good to meet in person and to reflect how Covid has delayed and warped our expression of loss. Another support group will be offered in the mid spring 2022.

I am thankful for support from church staff, church council, and the congregation.

The opportunity to serve with you, alongside you, and for you is a humbling task.

In Christ,

Pastor Grant

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The CtK Prayer Shawl Ministry regrouped in person at the church early in April with discussions centered around the book, *Praying Together: The Priority and Privilege of Prayer in our Homes, Communities, and Churches*, by Megan Hill. After our discussions, we prayed together using the “ACTS” (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) format. Since then, we have continued to meet and pray together weekly on Tuesday mornings at the church. We read and are re-reading the Psalms which have been a great way to read God’s Word each day and to help us focus on God’s attributes.

Our crafters make beautiful prayer shawls for the pastors and church members to give out to those who may need to feel wrapped in God’s love. This year we think over 25 prayer shawls were given out along with about 50 prayer squares. These crafters create each piece with much care and prayers and we are grateful for them sharing their time and talent. Please note, many in our prayer group do not know how to stitch. For this reason we are considering a name change that better reflects our mission to pray for and also reach out with care, reminding one another of God’s unending love wrapped around us. We hope to continue to listen and act on how God wants us to respond in the year ahead during a brunch retreat tentatively being planned for Saturday, March 5th. Please join us!

Respectfully submitted by Barb Benson and Amy Yovich

## **2021 Packathon Report**

Thanks to our amazing CtK planning team, generous donors and 406 volunteers from across Gallatin County, ALL the students at the Light and Peace School in Bois Negresse, Haiti, are enjoying a nutritious lunch every day this school year!

We moved the event to Hope Lutheran Church to accommodate both the larger crowd and whatever distancing Covid might require. The move initiated a most fruitful partnership with Hope and a handful of other area churches. Together with area businesses, sports teams, scout troops, and the MSU Lutheran Campus Ministry, we were able to raise \$32,487 to cover costs for both the 77,280 meals packed and for shipping them to our location Haiti. Special thanks to CtK’s Youth for their huge effort, forming our first fundraising team ever—motivating other groups to follow their lead.

We expect reliable lunches will boost enrollment in the Bois Negresse school, so they will need more lunches, and we will need more people to help plan our 2022 Packathon. See Kay Roseen, Marsha Polansky, or Barb Benson to join this faith-building, empowering opportunity to change lives!

## **Building & Grounds Team Report**

2021 was a busy year here at Christ the King Lutheran Church, especially for the Building & Grounds Team and Facilities Manager, Dawn Byrd. Members of the team include Dan Devore, Mike Dorrence, George Polansky, Ric Rasmussen, Ben von Ullrich. This team welcomes participation from the congregation. If interested in more information, stop by the church office and talk to the office manager, Dawn Byrd.

The B&G Team hosted two very successful clean up days (spring and fall), with lunch (purchased with Thrivent Action Grant Funds) served to all volunteers.

2021 projects included: resealing and restriping the parking lot in October; painting of sanctuary, narthex, social hall and hallway ceiling; purchase of four iWave-R air purifiers for the sanctuary and office furnaces. (*thank you, Mike Dorrence, for installing these units for us*); landscape sprinkler system repair and maintenance; conversion of interior lighting to LEDs throughout facility—a work in progress (*thank you, George Polansky, for working with the Northwestern Energy grant program and the local electrician*); a new lighted sign along Durston; lawn maintenance and snow removal; fire suppression system inspection (anticipating a plan to replace/repair leaking sprinkler heads and replace lost suppression fluids).

Future projects include the installation of the new sign along Durston Road; and the easement with the City of Bozeman for the installation of a paved pathway along the NW edge of our property line.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Byrd

## Children's, Youth and Family Ministries Report

The most notable development in 2021, at least for me, was my transition from full-time Director of Children's, Youth and Family Ministries to part-time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. We made this change in order to make room for my new role with Lutheran Campus Ministry which began in August. I am currently serving as a 3/4 time campus pastor with LCM and 1/4 time ministry director with CtK. Thankfully, Pastor Lindean is fulfilling the children's ministry director role.

Amid leadership changes and COVID-19 disruptions, God's work with young people of all ages marches on. The challenges we face are formidable, but so is God's way of moving and shaping us. The following is a list of just a few moments we got together last year and were able to catch a glimpse of God's light shining through our community.

### Children's Ministry God Glimpses

1. Easter Egg Hunt: We were pleasantly surprised to see more community involvement than we've experienced since I started in 2016. The egg hunt unintentionally became an outreach event due to the fact that Covid precautions prevented our usual Sunday morning hunt. Add that to the fact that we were one of the few churches offering such an event and you've got yourself an impromptu, "share Christ's love with the whole neighborhood" moment.

2. Family Sledding at Yellowstone Alliance Adventure Camp: On paper this may seem like just another fun get-together, but for many of us it was the first time we had seen each other in months. The feeling of community in, on, and around that sledding hill was extra special that day.

3. Vacation Bible School: Even the rain could not stop around 40 children and 15 adults from enjoying presentations by community guests, raising funds to



purchase farm animals through ELCA World Hunger, singing "Praise the Lord with Trumpet Sounds" a bazillion times, and hearing tons of Bible stories. It was made even better by the fact that we could do all of it in person.

### 4. Christmas Program:

The interactive Christmas program with live animals brought the Christmas story to life as the children guided us through each moment of Christ's coming. I'm incredibly grateful to the Sunday School teachers who brought this vision to life.



I'm incredibly grateful to the Sunday School teachers who brought this vision to life.

### Youth Ministry & Young Adult God Glimpses

1. Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp: Two adults and six high schoolers,

were able to spend a week at FLBC soaking in God's creation



and growing in relationship with Christ and one another. Two of the high schoolers were guests of CtK and were able to attend camp because of the "James Anderson Bring A Friend Scholarship." James' legacy lives on each year as more and more friends of CtK youth are invited to join us on our adventures.

2. PB&A: We were overwhelmed by your generosity, i.e., donated items, volunteer time, and contributions, as we raised a little over \$14,200 together, including almost \$4,000 of the total going to Christikon for backpack supplies and cabin renovations. My heart is full knowing that we are united in our desire to nurture the faith and lives of the young in our midst.

3. Cookie Ninjas: Thank you for overwhelming us and Bozeman's First Responders with tons of cookie and treat donations. The firefighters, 911 Call Center employees, Law & Justice Center staff, and medical professionals at Bozeman Health thank you as well.

4. Earlyish Adults in Training, aka, EAT: My soul is continually fed by this thoughtful, loving, and genuine group of people. I'm always impressed by their willingness to help our congregation at a moment's notice.

With Gratitude,  
JP



## Christikon — Serving on behalf of Christ the King Lutheran Church

**It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ** among youth, adults and families of Christ the King (and others, too) — **exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.**

Christikon was founded and continues to operate as an arm of ministry for the Church. As a member of Lutheran Bible Camp, Inc., your congregation shares in owning the camp.

After 16+ months of pandemic, masks, uncertainty, we are continually thankful for the opportunity to do ministry. Preparation to safely hold camp sessions was nowhere near as challenging as last season, but all our effort ended up providing a powerful experience for those who came to camp. A few numbers that tell something of the year past, and/or point to the upcoming camp season:

- 7...more staff added to keep up with demand
- 2(nd)...PPP loan received, which helped pay for summer staff salaries
- 32...staff served this summer, hailing from Montana, Illinois, Colorado, Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Washington. 11 were new, and 21 returners.
- 1...skidsteer operator who in a weekend built the new patio in front of the Main Lodge
- 6...gallons of hand sanitizer purchased from Billings Company Trailhead Spirits
- 2...theologians leading our Continuing Education Retreat and Family Camp. Rev. Dr. Hans Wiersma (Augsburg University, Minneapolis) worked with 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Luther's writings while imprisoned in Wartburg Castle, and Dr. Anna Vigen (Loyola University, Chicago), helped us think about racism and how to talk about it in faith communities
- 71 (and counting)...years Christikon has served God's people faithfully and well; we consider ourselves an arm of ministry to congregations and the larger Church, both near and far.
- 45...number of volunteers who helped us design and build new decks on the Main Lodge & Canteen, and rebuild back stairs on the Living Center
- 300,000+...funds available to start phase two of the Capital Campaign. Depending on how the coming months progress, we hope to complete the Boy's Dorm

Remodel this year

- 18...number of trails groups that went out in three different sessions (highest in 15 years)
- 1 of 3...camps in MT accredited by the American Camping Association (ACA accreditation indicates that a camp meets rigorous industry-wide standards for camp safety, administration, health care, site adequacy, programming, and staffing)



Last summer 2 youth from Christ the King took part in regularly-scheduled youth camps. We also hosted 7 of your people in sessions for families and adults.

Our annual Spring **Benefit Auction** at the Billings Depot raised over \$30,000 for our ministry work, including direct gifts to support DD scholarships, backpacks, deck boards and our *Sojourners* Camp for at-risk youth. **The 2022 Auction is scheduled for April 24th.**

Christikon is blessed by its member congregations who also provide ongoing annual **support** for the camp's work. Together with gifts from individuals, this support enables ongoing facilities renewal and helps keep camper fees within reach of nearly everyone. In 2021, Christ the King contributed \$1,750 and \$600 towards our Capital Campaign. Thank you!

And we're grateful for those from your congregation who share in offering leadership for Christikon's work: Pastor Lindean Barnett Christenson and Holly Jeide served on the Board of Directors; Ginger Dynneson and Minnie Harney who served as Corporation Delegates.

We are thankful for the prayers, encouragement, support, and dedicated work of all involved in the Christikon ministry, and continue trusting God will get us where God wants and needs us to be.

Blessings  
Rev. Mark Donald, Executive Director

## **Christ the King Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes**

**January 31, 2021, 11:00 a.m. via Zoom**

- 1) Call to order: 11:09 a.m.
- 2) Voting members signed in: Quorum reached.
- 3) Opening prayer and appreciation: Megan Vincent
- 4) Annual Meeting 2020 Minutes approval: Amy Yovich
  - i) MSC to approve minutes as presented.
- 5) Treasurer's report: Ric Rasmussen. MSC to approve report.
- 6) Ministry Reports: Lindean Barnett-Christenson. Special thanks given to Tana Malmo and Marc Beck for their efforts in making online worship and outdoor worship a success thus far.
- 7) New Business: Spending Plan
  - i) MSC to approve Spending Plan as presented.
- 8) Recognition of Outgoing members: Lindean Barnett-Christenson
  - i) Marc Beck, Ric Rasmussen, Megan Vincent
- 9) Nominating Committee Report and Elections: Megan Vincent
  - i) Jeff Benson, Kristin Harney, Libby Elwell have been nominated.
  - ii) MSC to approve nominations.
- 10) Passing of the gavel: Introductions 2021 Council President, George Polansky
- 11) Closing Prayer: George Polansky

Adjournment: MSC to adjourn. 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Yovich

2020 Council Secretary

## **CtK Special Congregational Meeting to discuss trail proposed by Trinity Presbyterian Church**

**October 24, 2021, 7:00 pm via Zoom**

A special meeting of the congregation was called to order at 7:06 pm on Sunday, October 24, 2021, via Zoom, to allow for a congregational vote on the proposal included below. A quorum was met, with 76 members in attendance.

### **Motion:**

***Whereas Trinity Presbyterian Church has approached us to set aside an easement for purpose of a path;***

***Be it resolved that we grant a 30 foot easement along the north property boundary to the City of Bozeman for this purpose.***

Motion made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Pastor Lindean led the group in a closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Yovich

CtK 2021 Council Secretary

(Continued from page 13)

In 2021, we lived out our faith in service, sometimes in big ways—the Packathon made the local TV news! - and sometimes in less public ways, buying diapers for Family Promise or a Christmas gift for a family in need, and caring for the last, least, and little. These good works are an integral part of the gracious way of life in Christ that God has prepared for us.

As your pastor, I am blessed to serve on behalf of CtK on the Board of Directors for Christikon and Lutheran Campus Ministry at MSU. I'm a panelist on the Gallatin Valley Interfaith Forum, a member of the Montana Synod Stewardship Task Force and the Synod Communications Team, and the Dean of the Crazy Mountains Cluster. I am even more blessed by the privilege to rejoice with you when you rejoice, weep with you when you weep, and wonder with you when you wonder (the Apostle Paul wrote the first two, the wondering bit is mine). This life together is

beautiful and messy. Thank you for the grace and forgiveness you have shown me over the last year.

The prophet Isaiah declared the word of the Lord to the people anticipating release from exile in Babylon: God is doing “a new thing.” God is still in the business of making all things new, and God will make a way for us, not looking to go back but forward. As we look ahead to our life and ministry together in the year before us, I am excited about the ways God will continue to form and transform us. Our life together really does matter, for us as individuals and as a community, and for the world in which we live. We will have new opportunities to share the love of Jesus - as we build relationships, care for creation, work for justice, serve the poor, and listen for the call of the Spirit to ventures we haven't even thought of yet.

God's peace be with you in 2022.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lindean Barnett Christenson



**Agenda of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation  
Christ the King Lutheran Church, Bozeman, Montana  
January 30, 2022**

**Meeting Called to Order**

Voting Members signed in:

Voting Members required for quorum: 45

**Opening Prayer** - George Polansky, Council President

**Minutes from 2021 Annual Meeting** – Amy Yovich, Council Secretary

Available in 2021 Annual Report

**Minutes from Special Meeting, October 24, 2001** – Amy Yovich, Council Secretary

Available in 2021 Annual Report

**Ministry Reports** – Pr. Lindean Barnett Christenson

Available in 2021 Annual Report

**Treasurer’s Report** – Jeff Benson, Council Treasurer

Available in 2021 Annual Report

**New Business:** Spending Plan for 2022

Available as individual document and on CtK website

**Recognition of Outgoing Council Members** - Pr. Lindean Barnett Christenson

George Polansky, Tim McNicholas, Stefanie Lohse

**Report of the Nominating Committee** – Patsy Olmstead, Chairperson

Slate of nominees in 2021 Annual Report

**Elections**

**Passing of Gavel** – Introduction of 2022 Council President, Barbara Nolan

**Closing Prayer** – George Polansky

**Adjournment**

Christ the King Lutheran Church

*A congregation of the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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