

ANNUAL REPORT



Connect • Explore • Act

**RLC ANNUAL MEETING • SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021 • 10:00 AM
• IN THE RLC WORSHIP CENTER •**

There is an option to join via Zoom. Register for link at:
www.rosevillelutheran.org/annual by Friday, Aug. 27.



THE NARRATIVE ARC OF OUR SHARED STORY

Lauren J. Wrightsman, Senior Pastor

When one is crafting a story, we are often told to build a story arc into the narrative. This arc provides a backbone by providing a clear beginning, middle and end of the story that is being told.

The beginning is the first part of the story where the writer captures the reader's attention. A great opening line will give a glimpse into the story that is to come. And of course, like any good opening line, it will make the reader want to read more.

The middle is where the bulk of the story rests, holding the reader's attention. This is where characters are developed, conflict is introduced. A good middle should keep the reader's attention - always wanting more.

The end is where the story comes to a close and will ultimately either leave the reader satisfied with the ending, or thinking about the story long after it is finished.

The Biblical story, in its entirety, opens up with the beginning verse introducing the story of God's creation, "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth," (Genesis 1:1)

The ending verse is found in Revelation 22:21, which reads, "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen"

There is, of course, a lot that happens between the opening line, and the closing line. This is a story of God's love for God's creation. It is a story of God's creative and redemptive work throughout the course of human history. This is a story that weaves together conflicting characters, impossible dreams, and newness on every page. While it is neatly bookended with an opening line and a closing line, it doesn't actually ever end. We haven't gotten to the ending because God's work among us is still taking shape and being formed.

BEGININGS AND ENDINGS

This past year we have reflected often on beginnings and endings. We talk about "the beginning of the pandemic," and wonder if we are truly at an "ending." We would like for our experiences to be neatly bookended - to have a place where we can say, "That story has ended, let's move on."

But human life does not work that way. Our human experience of living as God's beloved is not one arc, but rather many that are interwoven together. Much like the Biblical stories overlap and create new arcs of compassion and hope, so, too, do ours.

So, where are we in our shared story as a congregation? What began in the mid 1940's continues. Roseville Lutheran has always been called to be a presence in this community. We continue to proclaim and live out our vision and mission to "Love God. Love your neighbor." and to strive to be "A community united by grace."

This year has had its difficulties. It was a year marked by a contentious Presidential election, protests and rioting, and an unsettledness to our shared history. As a congregation, we have spent most of the year physically distanced from one another, worshipping online, gathering virtually, and, as restrictions have eased, re-entered into our past activities with hesitant steps. We have also undergone a pastoral transition as we said "goodbye and Godspeed" to Pastor Sara Spohr last July.

We have, however, lived out our vision and calling in unique and wonderful ways over the past year. We have continued to build relationships with our community partners; providing food and necessities to those who are in need. We have continued to gather as a people of God to mourn the death of our



loved ones. While compassionate care looked different this year; the cards, phone calls and virtual visits were infused with the love we have for others. We have continued to explore new ways to enter into difficult conversations regarding race and inclusion. I encourage you to read this Annual Report to fully understand the breadth and depth of our shared ministries that have continued or been born through the past year.

As we look forward to the future, we understand that God's story is still being written and created among us. There is no nice "bookend" to our shared ministry. It is passed down from one to another. It is born anew at the baptismal waters, it is born again as families gather at grave sides, it is given new life as we share a holy meal together. Wherever God's story goes, there is always, always, a new beginning.

We are living in the middle of God's story, and possibly the beginning of ours - a story that really has no end. In the Biblical story, the middle verses, found in Psalm 103:1-2 read, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."

May we continue to bless our Lord with all that we have, forgetting not that we, too, have a story to share.

Thank you, people of Roseville Lutheran Church, for being part of this great and tremendous story!

Blessings,

Lauren J. Wrightsman
Senior Pastor

*Bless the Lord,
O my soul,
and all that is
within me, bless
his holy name!
Bless the Lord,
O my soul,
and forget not
his benefits.*

ROSEVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

• ANNUAL MEETING • SET FOR AUGUST 29, 2021

You are invited to the Annual Meeting held in the RLC Worship Center on Sunday, Aug. 29. Join via Zoom if unable to attend in person. Register for link at www.rosevillelutheran.org/annual by Aug. 27.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Hear Reports for Council President and President-Elect
- Adopt a budget for 2021-2022
- Elect officers

The meeting is called by President Jessica Henry.

*All members of Roseville Lutheran Church
are invited to attend.*

TO PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S MISSION

Chris Hagen, Interim Associate Pastor

The purpose of RLC as declared in this congregation's constitution is "To participate in God's mission..." The mistake many church people make is assuming the church exists to meet their own preferences. William Temple, a theologian and archbishop a century ago, asserted that "church is the only organization that exists solely for the benefit of non-members." That may go a step too far, but it is worth pondering. RLC exists for the sake of the people of the Roseville area, and not just its members.

Among other things, Article IV: Purpose in RLC's Constitution reads, "the Congregation as a part of the Church shall...Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs."

One of my responsibilities as interim associate pastor is to lead staff, council, and lay leadership in conversations about the future ministry of the congregation, focusing especially on working with a team to develop the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) for the next associate pastor call process. More than a report on RLC, the MSP is a summary of the direction that the Holy Spirit is taking this congregation. Recently members were asked to respond to a survey on a couple of sensitive topics of which RLC leadership was uncertain. Advocating dignity and justice for all people came through clearly in the responses. Over 88% affirmed "It is important that RLC actively promote racial inclusion in our church." Over 87% affirmed "I want RLC to openly welcome LGBTQ+ individuals as members of our church." These responses show a clear desire to seek dignity and justice in our racially troubled times and for those burdened by attitudes regarding gender identity. I am grateful for those on this task force: Abby Matter, Kevin Miller, Amy Schell, Chris Semsrud and Val Velde. And for those on the Inclusion Task Force who continue their work: Audrey Dontje Lindell, Wendy Neupauer, Daniel Pederson, Katrina McMahon, Linda Eldred, Trupti Storlie, Valerie Velde, Beth Jacobsen and Jill Peterson.

Another of my responsibilities is to guide the constitution update process. RLC's constitution was last updated in 2018. Since then changes in procedures and structure have been made in RLC. One of the most significant changes has been to allow official meetings to take place electronically and not solely in person. Covid quarantine has made this particularly necessary. The Constitution and Bylaws Task Force also was asked to suggest a new organizational structure for RLC that reflected its current practices and ministries. The task force gave considerable attention to what would be the best organization for the future. We are experiencing changing times. It proved impossible to envision a structure for a future that is in so much fluctuation. A different approach is needed. Rather than a static structure, RLC will, for a time, explore, experiment, and imagine various ways of organizing ministry. Essential for this approach is curiosity, willingness to make mistakes, and learn from them, allowing for wild ideas, good-sport engaging in something new, and a generous attitude of listening to those we don't usually meet. I am grateful for the Constitution and Bylaws Task Force: Chris Gehrz, Carrie Heffte Hanton, Stacy Nealy, Scott Roste, Diane Sell, Greg Johnson, KJ Bach.

It has been a pure gift to be part of RLC's ministry since November. This congregation has before it exciting opportunities! I will be serving here a few more months until the next associate pastor is called, but after I will be watching from afar to see where God is taking you.



Finally, I am blessed working with this caring, faithful, wise staff. Every one of them seeks to do what is best and right for God's mission and this church. And Pastor Lauren is a strong, gifted leader. It is a pleasure working with and learning from her.

To God be the glory,
Pastor Chris Hagen

rosevillelutheran.org

MINISTRY SITE PROFILE TASK FORCE

The Ministry Site Profile Task Force was appointed by council to draft items for the document that will be used in the calling of a pastor called the "Ministry Site Profile." It is a formal document that describes this congregation, its ministry direction, the characteristics of its ministry setting and the particular skills needed in the next associate pastor. The task force did this background work to assist the future Call Committee. The future Call Committee will finalize the Ministry Site Profile.

The task force assembled information on RLC that was already available, with generous assistance from RLC staff. They also researched area demographics, drawing on the Metropolitan Council Community Profile and the City of Roseville Community Development. The task force also led the survey of RLC members on key areas of which there was some uncertainty, that of racial inclusion, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and member engagement following the ending of pandemic quarantine.

While the task force work is largely completed, they will be available to the Call Committee to advise the completion of the Ministry Site Profile. Members of this task force are Abby Matter, Kevin Miller, Amy Schell, Chris Semsrud, Val Velde, and Pastor Chris Hagen.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS TASK FORCE

In August 2020, the Constitution and Bylaws Task Force (CBTF) was appointed by council "to align RLC's constitution and bylaws within the RLC mission, vision and values and develop a comprehensive and cohesive organizational framework that can reimagine our work as the church for the 21st century." RLC's bylaws are significantly out of date with current practices and the constitution updates have not kept up with changes from the ELCA.

The task force's work was separated into 3 categories: constitution updates, bylaw revisions, and proposing an appropriate organizational framework. Before revising bylaws, it was necessary to identify an appropriate organizational framework that the bylaws would describe. This proved to be an impossible task in the current fluid environment and still-developing church direction. Instead of a set structure, the task force decided to allow time for exploring options and experimenting with organizational forms. The bylaws reflect this open option. As for the constitution elements, the major updates have to do with the Endowment Committee and the Finance Committee.

CBTF has completed its tasks of updating the constitution and revising bylaws as far as possible. Next, RLC members will have time to review the proposed changes and ask questions. This fall the constitution and bylaws amendments will be brought to a congregation meeting for vote. Following a favorable vote, the amendments will be submitted to the St. Paul Area Synod Council for approval. Ratification of constitution amendments occurs following that approval.

Constitution and Bylaws Task Force members are: Chris Gehrz, Carrie Heffte Hanton, Stacy Nealy, Scott Roste, Diane Sell, Greg Johnson, KJ Bach and Pastor Chris Hagen.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION – DETOUR AHEAD

Jessica Henry, RLC Congregational President

"Road Construction – Detour Ahead." These signs are everywhere right now and they feel synonymous with my pandemic journey, one giant detour. There was no hint of an impending global pandemic when I joined Roseville Lutheran Church's executive council three years ago – I thought I knew the milestones on the path ahead of me. As it turned out, we all ended up on a detour that wasn't marked on the well-worn map from the glovebox.

Roseville Lutheran leaned into exploring new approaches to ministry and operations this past year. Online services continued and allowed people from across the country and across the world to worship with us; creative minds stitched together virtual choirs and instrumental ensembles; other churches collaborated with us to tell the story of the Nativity in our respective parking lots; our traditional love lights moved out of the Worship Center and into our neighborhoods as luminaries; soup suppers became a weekly drive-thru event during Lent; confirmation students met and learned online; and we put our parking lot to other good uses like hosting drive-in worship and Keystone food distribution events. There was significant work happening behind the scenes, as well; Roseville Lutheran's staff collaborated more than ever, there were three active task forces, regular (and extra) Council meetings, and a host of facility updates.

All of this planning and ministry moved forward with a careful eye on the budget, and Roseville Lutheran closed out the fiscal year with an operating surplus. The main reasons for the surplus include the continued financial support from sustaining givers throughout the pandemic, a successful PRAISE RLC campaign, the forgiveness of a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) Loan, and expenses being below budget due to an extended period of online ministry. Ending the year with a surplus puts Roseville Lutheran in a strong position to return to in-person worship and ministry, continue online opportunities, and add live streaming of worship services.

As we navigated this detour together, the mission to Love God, Love Neighbor kept Roseville Lutheran on course. Our ministry continued, but some of the scenery along the way looked different; some of the experiences we shared along the detour were so special that I hope they become destinations that we revisit now and again. And as this detour concludes, I am praying for peace, rest, and rejuvenation for each of you – blessings on your continued faith journey

YOUR GENEROSITY STRENGTHENS OUR COMMUNITY

Joe Ziegler, President-Elect

Events of the last 18 months have brought about some changes. How's that for an understatement?

Pandemic quarantine forced us to rethink every facet of our approach to worship, ministry, fellowship and outreach.

The RLC staff responded with online services, Zoom Bible studies, adult education video seminars, drive-in worship, take-home learning kits for youth and their families, and much more. While COVID-19 restrictions hit particularly hard for those already in need, RLC teams answered with creative ways to reach out to members and to provide ongoing support of Bridging, Meals on Wheels, Keystone and other charitable efforts.

In addition to my gratitude to the RLC staff for all of their hoop-jumping, I also extend my thanks to the congregation for your patience, understanding and sustained support throughout this unprecedented time. Despite our physical separation for most of the year, you reinforced your commitment to Roseville Lutheran Church, meeting our budgeted offering total of \$1.3 million. Incredible.

Normally, RLC generates additional income through event hospitality and building fees. With these opportunities essentially non-existent last year, we faced a potentially significant income deficit. Fortunately, the RLC finance team recognized the threat, and actively pursued federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds. PPP proceeds enabled RLC to keep most of our current staff, while also filling a couple of critical new positions.

It is heartening to once again gather in person. Your continued engagement—combined with perhaps the most diversely talented staff in our over 75-year history—is helping RLC emerge from this trial stronger, and well-positioned to cultivate a community united by grace.



ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Dorothy Tostengard

The Endowment fund total as of April 30, 2021 is \$644,342. This fund dispenses 5% of the total each year. It is given by way of grant applications in May and October.

This year we are so appreciative to the estate of Don Severson for a gift of \$12,000 to the Endowment Fund. We give thanks to all the contributions, which can be memorials, wills, life insurance designations, rollovers and such. There are many ways to give to this fund.

2020 Endowment Grants

MAY, 2020

Wilderness Canoe Base \$1650.
 Love Lights replace LED \$269.
 Lecture series Conversations of faith \$2100.
 RLC carry out camp supplies \$3184.
 RLC child care gazebo \$2000.
 Heart to Heart Tanzania \$825.
 RLC ONAM speaker fund \$1000.
 St. Paul Synod stewardship for all seasons \$2000.
 Foundation of Life Faith Community (Ethiopian origin) \$1500.
Total. \$17,377
 (\$5346. Carried over from from 2019)

OCTOBER, 2020

KJ Bach and the Lively Landscapers \$1500.
 The DesignTeam \$6117.02
 Director of Development position support \$3200.
Total \$10,817.02

The Love Lights project changed this year because of the pandemic. Our new project offered battery powered luminaries, and Connie's cookies to be picked and taken home to use at Christmas time. The committee enjoyed packaging them, getting them ordered and picked up. There were some pictures of some luminaries on the web site. We hope to continue this in the future.

A sub-committee consisting of Kevin Peterson, Bill Metzger, and Greg Johnson met with Development Director Rebecca Bender-Faris. They discussed investment vehicles, procedures, and reporting of gifts into the fund.

The RLC Endowment Fund Charter was reviewed and revised. The committee voted on and approved the revisions. They will send it to the RLC board for approval.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Rolf Olson, Visitation Pastor

I share the feelings of so many when I simply shake my head at the past year. The stresses we all felt were certainly felt by our elders, for whom I have direct responsibility. Many in senior residences spent most of their time in their apartments with meals being delivered to their rooms. Contact with others was largely by phone. This is how pastoral care was delivered this past year. Sharing leadership of our care ministry with Diane Sell, I telephoned dozens of our elders regularly to check in and pray. Other caring RLC members did the same. It was impressive how we were able to connect from a distance. Through weekly internet devotions and recorded worship we all were able to unite in our faith, distant as we were. The Holy Spirit is not limited to a building!

Our Care Team lived out Christ's command to "love one another" through calls, notes, and distant visits. Every week our Care Team reached out to 30+ partners. Before Covid they helped with chores, shared Holy Communion, bought groceries, drove to appointments, and served as needed. With the pandemic soon in our rear-view mirrors they are returning to these acts of love. (Sadly, with the rise of the delta variant of covid, we had to cancel our August senior brunch and worship. The meals were delivered to our elders with the love and greetings of their beloved church.)



We are grateful for the leadership of Ken Groth, Carol Solie, and Dave Risinger who organize, train, and support our 23 Care team members. Dave joined our team last spring after the retirement of Linda Hetland, for whose service we are very grateful.

Our Prayer Team, led by Pam McCulloch, supports our entire ministry. The team receives regular updates and requests which are then shared and prayed for. Pam also coordinates our prayer shawl ministry which makes shawls to share with people in special need. I serve as pastoral liaison to these teams while also having the privilege of visiting other elders in special situations.

As an additional facet of my RLC ministry I lead the Men's Breakfast and Bible Study which meets on Saturday mornings twice each month. Before Covid we averaged about 20 men each time. During the pandemic we met via zoom and usually had about 12 for Scripture study and discussion of current events and personal concerns. In the warmer months we meet outside by the tennis courts.

It is a privilege and joy to serve RLC as visitation pastor.

THE UNEXPECTED AND THE ROUTINE

David Booms, Church Administrator

This past year within the areas of Administration & Campus Management, we have worked hard to keep up with the unexpected and new as well as the routine. As the laws and regulations at federal, state, and local levels continue to change and expand, your Admin and Campus Teams have made strides to get equipped and implement solutions to achieve the dual goals of compliance and forward-moving ministry. This year's key items of note included:



- Monitoring and implementing the sometimes-daily changes brought about by COVID-19 in the areas of legal requirements, HR, and facility management.
- Maintaining our existing facility & campus.
- The work done around the Altar to keep us "Camera Ready."
- Completion of the Upper Lobby Project.
- The addition of new storage areas.
- Partnering with Roseville Area High School to administer AP testing.
- Addition of a wireless network across the Campus
- The wonderful work done by our Lively Landscapers

At the beginning of this year we reported 2,281 individuals as official members of the church. Thirty-five members were confirmed. Ten new members by baptism. Twenty-Four of our members have joined the Saints in heaven. Rounding off our total participants in worship 496 are on the roles as Friends. Together 2,777 individuals call Roseville Lutheran their faith home.

I commend to you the leadership and staff of the teams that comprise Ministry Support (non-Finance.) Bruce Pelava – Campus Manager (recently retired) and the team of Arlen Rystrom, Shelton Ingram, and Greg Saiko for keeping our facility and grounds in great shape. Connie Marchio - Hospitality Manager and Colleen Hopple (recently retired) who kept food going out the doors to the membership and those in need. Daniel Pederson - Communications Manager, and Beth Daniel – Administrative Assistant who have worked to keep you informed and connected. A very big shout out to Nick Clausen who has taken his video production knowledge to shoot and edit our recorded services as well as our current livestreaming of Worship.

WELCOME AT RLC!

Rebecca Bedner-Faris, Director of Development

Starting a new job can be challenging. You have to start over in many ways. There is so much to learn and so many new people to meet. Now add a global pandemic to the mix and things become really interesting. In addition to learning the landscape and trying to meet everyone, you have to do it over Zoom. And once you start to gather in person, you have to try to recognize people with half their face covered by a mask. But luckily for me, my new role was here at RLC where staff and members have shown me a warm welcome from day one!



Working on our pRAISE RLC: Love Lives! campaign was a great introduction to the congregation. It was amazing to be a part of a fundraising campaign that focused on holding up and celebrating all that we are doing at RLC and in the community. I was able to attend my first drive in worship which was powerful, as well as attend the Family Fun Block Party. I enjoyed getting to meet so many people and watching as members were finally able to be together after more than a year apart. I was also moved by the generosity of the congregation as we exceeded our goal and raised a total of \$117,229. This includes:

- \$30,000 set aside for live streaming equipment
- \$3,128 raised for FMSC, which was matched dollar for dollar by generous donors
- \$14,300 spent on ionization units
- 176 total donors including 27 new donors

Thanks to your generosity and support, we are ending this year on a strong financial note. As I look towards the future, I feel hopeful about what the next year will bring. I am excited about the engagement opportunities and stewardship events we are planning to hold, as well as my expanded role on the Endowment Committee. My heart is full with gratitude for all of the many blessings I have in my life, including this new role I hold at RLC. Thank you for the warm welcome into this community united by Grace.

Val
Velde



Linda
Hanson



Kris
Olsen



Audra
Engebretson



Carrie
Hefte-Hanton



Dave
Risinger



David
Werner



LAY LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES FOR 2021-2022

The Roseville Lutheran Church Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the 2021-2022 candidates for RLC lay leadership positions! These candidates will be voted on at the annual meeting.

Valerie Velde – Executive Council, 2021-2022

Val Velde started coming to RLC in 1999, and joined as a member shortly before she and her husband were married. All three of their children are in Cornerstone. Val was on the Ministry Site profile task force as well as the LGBTQ+ Inclusion task force. Val serves as a cornerstone teacher most years. Professionally, Val Velde is the Regional Customer Operations Manager at Land O’Lakes, Purina Division, is celebrating year 17 with the company, and loves the diversity of responsibility and challenges of her role. She is also the current Co-Chair of Land O’Lakes Disability Awareness ERG. Outside of Land O’Lakes Val serves as the Chair of FFA Foundation Board of Directors, Council Member of the MN Agricultural Education Leadership Council. Val holds a Master’s Degree in Organizational Leadership from Northwestern, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Minnesota and Minor in Internal Agriculture.

COUNCIL – 2 OPENINGS, 2-YEAR TERMS

Linda Hanson – Council

Linda Hanson is looking forward to serving as a representative on RLC’s community council. She and her husband, Rolf joined Roseville Lutheran Church five years ago after Linda retired from being a Public Health Nurse. They have four grown children and five grandchildren. “We joined RLC because it was located in Roseville, encouraged by neighbors, and had a welcoming congregation. We found caring pastors, wonderful music, and a strong fellowship here.” She has been a life-long Lutheran, serving as Sunday school teacher and on various teams and boards. She currently participates in adult education, small group Bible Study, RLC Reads, and donates to community outreach projects.

Kris Olsen – Council, Mission and Outreach Liaison

Kris Olsen has been a member of Roseville Lutheran since 1990 when she moved into the Roseville area. “My husband Don and I lived in Falcon Heights until late 2019 when we moved to a home in Gem Lake ~ but my heart remains with the Roseville area.” Kris has been involved in many different committees at RLC including Mission & Outreach, Endowment and Hospitality. She has also been a previous member of Council. “I am excited to see the ways RLC will continue to respond to our community ~ and adapt to the needs of our members.”

ENDOWMENT – 3 OPENINGS, 3-YEAR TERMS

Audra Engebretson – Endowment

Audra Engebretson has been a member of Roseville Lutheran since 2011. She and her husband Brent have two children, Anders and Emma. Audra is a member of the Immigration Team and the RLC Book Club. She has also participated in the GriefShare program after the death of her father. When asked about RLC, Audra said, “When my kids were younger, it provided them with wonderful opportunities to make friendships and help the community. As they have grown, I have found those opportunities for myself.”

Carrie Hefte-Hanton – Endowment

Carrie Hefte Hanton has been a member at RLC since 1988. When her three children were active in youth programs at RLC, she helped with confirmation and served on a committee that raised funds to support youth activities. She served on Council between August 2019 and August 2021. In addition to being on Council, she is an active member of the Constitution and Bylaws Task Force. During her term on Council, she was the Council liaison to the Endowment Committee. She assisted the Endowment Committee in updating the Endowment Fund Charter. She enjoyed her time as the liaison for the Endowment Committee and is excited to serve on the Endowment Committee for the next three years.

Dave Risinger – Endowment

Dave Risinger has been a member since 1990 along with his wife, Janet. “Early on we participated in small group bible study for families with young children, we were in the Gospel Gourmet group for many seasons and have been in many small group book discussions. I have been a small group Confirmation leader, served communion, participated in dresser builds, worked as a Lively Landscaper and have helped build sets for VBS. We were very appreciative of the strong children’s programs when our children were younger, we are regular 11:00 worshipers enjoying the contemporary music and the good message every Sunday and we find the 10:10 discussions very interesting and enlightening!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – 1 CANDIDATE, 2-YEAR TERM

David Werner – Nominating Committee

David and his wife, Linda, have been members at RLC for 13 years. While at RLC he has served twice on Council, been a member of the Sr. Pastor call committee, served on the Endowment committee, Development Strategy task force, and Leadership Development committee. He is a member of the Lively Landscapers, as well as serves communion. “We find RLC a welcoming, friendly place where we can serve the RLC mission of Loving God and Loving Your Neighbor.”

STRENGTH FOR TODAY AND BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW

Laurel Hofeldt,
Director of Finance and Data

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. A line in the familiar hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness," this summer's worship theme at RLC, and a wonderful summary of God's faithfulness this past year!

I am grateful for the ways in which the finance staff has adapted and continued to see to the details of counting and recording gifts, communicating with donors, paying the bills, reporting on the finances and working with staff and lay leaders to plan, budget, creatively adjust, and minister to the community around us. Thank you to Diane Daulton, Tammy Swanson and Kelly Birkmaier for their dedication and service at RLC!

I am thankful for the addition of Rebecca Bedner-Faris in the new Director of Development role, and am honing my database and data mining skills to provide relevant information as she expands relationships with our generous donors and builds on the momentum of the past Stewardship committee, the PRAISE RLC campaign and the Endowment Fund.

I am hopeful as I review the financial surplus as of the end of the 2020-2021 fiscal year and present the 2021-2022 proposed ministry budget for congregational vote at the annual meeting. As you absorb the financial information in this report there are several ways for you to ask questions, provide input, and show support for the coming ministry year:

- Attend the Budget 101 in-depth discussion via Zoom on Tuesday, August 24 at 6:30 pm. Register for the link at www.rosevillelutheran.org/budget
- Attend the Annual Meeting in-person on Sunday, August 29 at 10:00 am. Join via Zoom if you can't attend. Register for link at www.rosevillelutheran.org/annual.
- Email me directly at lhofeldt@rosevillelutheran.org

As the people of Roseville Lutheran look to the future, God continues to provide strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Thank you for your ongoing generous support of RLC and the ways in which we reach out with the love of Christ to the Roseville community and the world!



ADVANCING OUR MISSION IN 2021-22

Connect • Explore • Act

As we gather together this year we are excited about new opportunities for all members and friends of Roseville Lutheran Church as we live into our mission and vision and learn new ways to "Connect – Explore – and Act" this mission and vision into our daily lives.

Through our worship, outreach, and programming opportunities we will be focusing on ways we can connect as a people of God, explore new ways of living into our mission and vision, and find new ways to act out this love in the ways in which we live our lives. Our budget reflects this emphasis.



CONNECT

In our most recent survey, many participants indicated a desire for more activities and events to draw us together as a community. The 2021/2022 budget reflects this desire in our community engagement and fellowship: expanded Adult Education opportunities on Sunday morning, RLC's Rally and Reunion on Sunday, September 12, Block parties and Oktoberfest, to name a few.

EXPLORE

Our mission and vision statement, "Love God. Love your neighbor. A community united by grace." encourages us to find ways to explore what it means to be a people of God, not only in this day in age, but as we proclaim our faith into the future. This includes exploring ways to:

- Serve generously
- Celebrate without exception the diversity of our community
- Strive to be good stewards of the resources God has granted

In the coming year we are exploring options for: RLC Kids to participate more fully in worship, and engage in learning during our 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. worship services; a dedicated Worship leader for our 10:30 Sunday morning worship; a space in our Worship Center for young children and families to sit together; an enhanced VIBE young adult ministry that incorporates mentoring our junior and senior high youth. We are excited to discover and explore these new ways of learning and encouraging one another in our walks of faith!

ACT

One of the values we uphold in our mission and vision statement is that of faithfulness: The Lord has a purpose for us here, in Roseville. This is lived out in our commitment to working with our ministry partners locally and in the world. The budget for 2021/2022 includes raising our Mission and Outreach funds from 6% of our general offering to 7%. This increase allows us to continue our good work with our ministry partners, as well as discover new opportunities for our action.

Roseville Lutheran has served in this community since 1942. Throughout the years, our building has grown to accommodate the growing needs of the people. The building needs from which our ministries are based is also part of our budget.

1. The mortgage payment is now reflected in the budget (\$56,000). We anticipate that the mortgage will be paid off by April 2023. This is one area we can celebrate together as a congregation.
2. The organ in our Worship Center has served us faithfully over many years. There are, however, some budgeted organ repairs that are part of our 2021/2022 budget.

We can't advance our mission without you! As a ministry of the people of God for the people of God, we rely on all gifts, both large and small to shape, transform, and empower people of all ages. Throughout the month of October we will be exploring the ways our stewardship connects us with communities both local and global, as well as how we can act in thankful response to our calling and our purpose.

We invite you to participate, engage, and to prayerfully consider the ways in which you can support our shared ministries. Thank you for your gifts, support, time, and talent. I am excited to be working alongside you in our mission and ministry!

Blessings,
Pastor Lauren J. Wrightsman

RLC 2021-2022 MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,895,000
(Proposed)



	2021-2022 Proposed	2020-2021 Actual	2019-2020 Actual	2018-2019 Actual
RECEIPTS:				
General Offering	1,377,000	1,183,929	1,300,484	1,390,108
Spring Fundraiser	100,000	85,151	140,391	0
Special Asks to Budget	0	3,754	4,740	76,107
Building Fund*	0	50,831	57,019	55,452
Hospitality	36,900	13,200	53,106	71,628
Building Fees	14,250	1,850	18,391	19,096
Other Receipts	366,850	254,135	37,754	56,196
	1,895,000	1,592,850	1,611,885	1,668,586
EXPENSES:				
Salaries	1,058,052	874,950	948,125	903,622
Benefits	229,913	178,233	196,615	203,467
Worship & Music	44,400	24,901	18,806	19,874
Mission & Outreach	96,000	70,941	64,655	72,695
Hospitality	68,000	31,554	56,978	67,486
Children, Youth & Family	34,050	6,422	25,063	26,080
Adult Ministry	15,400	4,628	4,765	6,752
Business Operations	164,835	133,277	141,441	147,318
Properties & Building	184,350	186,397	196,141	187,853
	1,895,000	1,511,304	1,652,591	1,635,146
Net Operating Surplus (Deficit)	0	81,546	(40,706)	33,440

*transferred from Restricted Gifts to cover mortgage



We will have an online question and answer time regarding the RLC Budget for 2021-2022. Join Laurel Hofeldt as she gives an overview of the coming year and addresses your questions. Register for the August 23 zoom meeting on our website at www.rosevillelutheran.org/budget.



Tuesday, August 24
Online (Zoom)
6:30 - 8:00 pm

Registration Required

2021-2022
BUDGET Q&A

www.rosevillelutheran.org/budget



CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILY

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry is excited to Connect, Explore and Act on God’s love this year. We will Connect in new ways with church friends we have missed during the pandemic and with others outside our walls, sharing Jesus’ message of loving our neighbors. We are excited to Explore what it means to be one of God’s children, to explore the gifts God has given each of us and how we can use them. We will explore what the Bible says and how it relates to our lives today. We will Act on God’s love by serving others. We will act on Jesus’ love by the words we use and how we treat others.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The life and energy of the Holy Spirit is alive and at work as we come together to give God our praise. In the coming year we will: connect with one another and with God as we lift up our voices together in praise and prayer; through the scripture we will explore new ways to be a people of God, called to be a community united by grace; and we will act, with the power of the Holy Spirit, to live out this calling in our daily walk of faith.



FELLOWSHIP AND CARE

We strive to make every visitor, member, or guest feel they are special and belong here. Join us as we Connect Act and Explore in 2021-2022 through Fellowship and Care. We are looking to have moments of Connecting through large group events like Rally Day and Ocktoberfest. We are looking to act as we reach out to the elderly in our congregation through meal distribution and one on one care visits. We will continue to explore our faith and our grief of pandemic time through Grief services open to all. These are just a few of the countless ways we have extended an offering of fellowship and care during uncertain times.

OUTREACH

At RLC, we continue to focus our efforts in connecting acting and exploring our faith and what God calls each of us to do through Outreach. You can get involved in our local partners. Whether it is with Central Park School and the Every Meal program or Keystone and the local food pack and distribution events at RLC there is a way for you to Connect, Explore, and Act.

- **Central Park Elementary** - Tutoring Program, Every Meal ministry (formerly Sheridan Story), financial support for technology
- **Bridging** - dresser builds for those transitioning out of homelessness
- **Keystone** - food shelf and social support partner, food pack and distribution events
- **Project Home** - provide emergency shelter for families facing homelessness in February.



ADULT MINISTRY

This past year we have gathered online in unique and wonderful ways, through online and outdoor events. In the year ahead we will connect our daily lives with the scripture through expanded educational events. Through these events we will discover new ways to explore the ways in which our faith enriches and encourages us as people of God, each gifted with unique and special gifts. Special events and opportunities are being planned to assist us in learning new ways to act upon these gifts through communal and individual participation.

BE JOYFUL IN HOPE

Diane Sell, Director of Volunteer and Care Ministry

*Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.
Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.
Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.
Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*

– Romans 12:9-12

Annual reports are always a good exercise for me as a staff member because I usually am looking and planning 3 months ahead. I rarely rest in what has been, except to glean what went well and what can be done differently in the future. So now, I reflect with you on the past year.

One year ago we were in the thick of COVID, however we continued to do ministry together in Jesus' name. We were worshipping in our parking lot. We had many volunteers working to create and continue our online Worship ministry. Close to 25 volunteers took on the role of Parking Lot attendants. We even had our first virtual Annual meeting!

As we now are open to Worship again in the building on Sundays we continue to have volunteers ushering, reading, and greeting.

We realized that our isolation from one another was especially hard on our members who were 70 and above. Our leadership took on the charge of contacting our members in this age group to let them know that they were not alone and they were being held up in prayer. Our Care Team continues to reach out today again and again. Out of this came needs. So we began what we call our "Gift of Kindness" project that was a partnership with Hospitality and Care Ministry and began last summer. Every month meals and homemade masks went out the door to those shut-in, and to those who have lost loved ones. These "gifts of kindness" then took on a new shape to include Thursday morning Donuts and Coffee to Care facilities staff last summer. We have over 12 Care facilities that our members live in and RLC volunteers delivered every week to nurses and care takers at these facilities as a thank you and a gift of kindness. This continued through the summer months in 2020.

Mission and Outreach hosted 3 events in 2020 where we partnered with Keystone to have a pack and distribution on site at RLC. Each event served over 300 family units in our community. We continued to create new events that were covid friendly and still reached out to our neighbors.

When the fall season came we continued Worship online and began finding new ways to connect with the congregation during Covid. We held our first outdoor All Saints evening service where we had over 30 people there. Other things we partnered on in ministry were the Christmas Nativity. What a gift that was!

Another way to bridge our isolation from one another was through our Lenten series "Lift Every Voice." which included an online small group study during lent. Over 125 participated in small groups weekly. In the wake of the George Floyd killing many were looking for ways to process, continue to educate, learn more, and reach out. During Holy week I was given the opportunity to flex my writing and directing muscle with 3 monologues that were delivered on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

On June 18, our congregation held a neighborhood block party led by the team of LIT students (Leadership In Training) from Bethel University. Under the direction of Jamey Johnson, this event was named "Drop the Mic." We had food trucks, spoken word artists, dance, and music by Reggae hip hop artist Ryan Daniels. We had over 100 neighbors and members in attendance.

My prayer for this next year is that we will not go back to how we were. My prayer is that we will be changed from the inside out by this pandemic, by this social unrest and that we, as Paul says in Romans, "never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

To God Be the Glory!



OUR NEIGHBORS AND ME



Begun as a series of six ad hoc Sunday morning discussions after the death of Philando Castile in Falcon Heights five years ago, this year ONAM found itself in step with our nationwide church. The ELCA has adopted a statement, "Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA," which consists of a report and recommendations regarding how the ELCA exhibits authentic diversity and formulates goals for racial diversity and inclusion.

In keeping with the ELCA churchwide goal, ONAM undertook several projects and planned for the future this past 2020-2021 year. Pastor Lauren, church staff, and ONAM members gave leadership to the viewing of "Time for Burning," viewed by youth and adults. This was followed by online discussions. The film, found on YouTube, presents the sequential story of efforts by a Lutheran pastor and church council to racially integrate their white church in Omaha during the 1960's Civil Rights era.

In August 2020 we sponsored two forums on the topic of "Civic Engagement" presented by George Shardlow and Madison Johnston. They presented the secular and sacred responsibilities of voting and political involvement. These can be found in the Forum section of the church website.

In the Fall of 2020, we continued to meet monthly online and held virtual planning meetings. Dr. Karen McKinney, Chief Equity Officer and Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Human Services, formerly Professor at Bethel University and longtime friend of RLC, consulted with ONAM leadership after the death of George Floyd to help us shape our work in the next year. Dr. McKinney will present two Sunday forums this Fall at RLC on relevant topics.

In addition the previously scheduled 2020 "Sacred Sites Tour" of Native American sites in the Twin Cities has been rescheduled for October 2. See the Fall TABLE newsletter for details of further upcoming ONAM education opportunities.

VISION

• LOVE GOD •
LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR

IMMIGRATION TEAM REPORT

Nancy Olson, Immigration Team

The Immigration Team is currently a subcommittee of Our Neighbors and Me (ONAM). After one meeting in February 2020, it was sidelined for a year during COVID. Its mission is threefold: to educate the congregation about immigration issues both local and national; to advocate for congregational practices that will welcome immigrants in the church and in the community which may also include proposed state legislation; and to provide members with avenues to serve immigrant members of the community.

Starting up again in January 2021 we have:

- Developed a 3-5 year plan
- Scheduled 2 adult forums in October to further educate the congregation.
- Continued to develop of church webpages of highlighting community resources (clothing, furniture, food, education, transportation, etc.) that may assist immigrant and other families in need.
- Continued to educate ourselves on immigrant issues both national and local including the work of Lutheran Social Services
- Identified the need to increase committee size

2020 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

* Pending Approval *

Date: August 23, 2020

Presiding: Mike Dolan, Council President

Parliamentarian: John Shardlow

Secretary: Scott Roste

Meeting called to order at 10:05 am by Mike Dolan. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual meeting was held online via Zoom video process. Quorum was established by the number of members who pre-registered for the meeting and attended.

Opening Prayer led by Pastor Lauren Wrightsman.

Meeting rules reviewed by Mike Dolan.

Minutes from 2019 Annual Meeting
Presented and approved.

Highlights of 2019-2020
Council highlighted program activities, facilities improvements and fundraising successes.

Nominations

2020-2021 Budget Proposal
The 2020-2021 budget was presented (copy attached). A motion was made and approved to approve the 2020-2021 budget.

Closing prayer

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 am.

ADULT EDUCATION

Georgia Nygaard, Adult Ed Chair

As with most RLC committees this past year has been a challenge as we adjusted to the confines of the Covid-19 pandemic. All in-person programs were cancelled; yet, we were determined to provide Adult Education sessions via online video presentations. For some guest speakers this online video format was a new experience or a new venture. RLC was fortunate to have Nick Clausen present as a guide and producer.

With the year 2020 being an election year, Adult Ed began its fall schedule with Dr. Mark Tranvik, who provided a session on "Martin Luther, the Politician" and another session on, "Faith and Politics." Other fall guest speakers included Dr. Roland Martinson a Professor from Luther Seminary who spoke on the contributions of the elderly in church and society. Rollie Johnson, a lay minister from First Lutheran in Fargo, North Dakota and former member and youth leader at RLC spoke on "Finding God in the Ordinary." John Helgen and Dr. Jim Boyce entertained a conversation with Marty Haugen, a music composer and church musician. Together, the three of them provided a program on the history and evolution of music in the church overtime as well as a discussion of "music in worship" and "music as worship" in the Lutheran Church.

The first speaker for the month of January was Pastor Rolf Olson who spoke on "Gun Violence." This program was presented in cooperation with RLC's Mission and Outreach Committee. Pastor Rolf made us aware of the increase and easy access to guns and the lack of legislation to help control the gun violence. January is designated as Mission and Outreach month. March highlighted the Keystone Community Service with Mary McKeown, the President and CEO of the Keystone program presenting an online video forum. RLC has a rich history of supporting the missions in our community.

In February and March, Dr. Jim Boyce presented four sessions on the Gospel of Luke with the theme of "God's Promise for All People." Each Sunday following one of Dr. Boyce's lectures, congregational members joined a Zoom meeting to discuss the lectures in response to that week's lesson.

In April, our committee had hopes of being able to host in-person Adult Education sessions and we wanted to provide the Summer Psalms programs with individuals from our congregation presenting insights on their favorite Psalm. However, the programs for April and May were cancelled with the hope of rescheduling these programs as in-person sessions next spring. New and exciting programs are 'in the making' for 2021-2022.



MISSION
COMMUNITY
UNITED BY GRACE

NEW BEGINNINGS

Audrey Dontje Lindell, Director of Youth Ministry

The previous year of high school ministry at RLC felt defined by Covid and what had been cancelled. This upcoming year feels like it will be defined by new beginnings and a return to updated traditions that will feel new after so long away.

This current year was in-between, and was marked by the tension of "here but not yet." Youth attended Bagels@Dawn, not at the St. Paul Bagelry, but outside of our Worship Center last fall – for a few weeks until restrictions tightened again. FLOCK, our youth group, met outdoors at Bruce Russell Park or indoors in the Great Hall or away at Dairy Queen or online via Zoom, depending on the weather, safety restrictions, and our activity for the week.

Our congregation's tradition of sending care packages to recent grads continued, but via individual households. Our fall retreat MEA Getaway didn't happen but youth gathered for a morning of donated yard work and pumpkin carving that weekend instead. An only slightly abbreviated calendar of summer trips was planned, but with many creative and new workarounds for Covid concerns.

We celebrated with this year's graduating seniors as always, but online and outdoors, like many of their graduation ceremonies and parties.

Just as we already experience the kingdom of God in the here and now, yet wait expectantly to experience it in its fullness someday soon, so too was this year marked by the ways in which we lived out our faith and yet still prepared expectantly to see our ministry continue to grow in new ways in a new year.



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BE WELL!

Daniel Pederson, Communications Manager

This year – honestly, as most years – brought changes and challenges, and LOTS of communications. How important it is to stay connected and know what is happening, and what is being planned (and hoped) for!

I would like to share my gratitude for Nick Clausen, an RLC member who has been sharing his incredible artistry as a videographer, and his expertise in the field as we have pursued installing permanent cameras in the worship center to allow for live-streaming of worship and other events. This has significantly enhanced one facet of our communications abilities at RLC.

We use Facebook, our website (www.rosevillelutheran.org), weekly eBlast updates, occasional mailed letters and postcards, and our TABLE Newsletter as major means of communications. Check those out if you haven't!

I will often close my personal communications with "Be Well!" a sincere wish for them and, honestly, for me. With all the changes this pandemic has brought to us, with all the new ideas, changed-yet-again plans, and daily persistence, I hope you hear through the various announcements you hear from the communications department at Roseville Lutheran Church, "Be well."



HIGHLIGHTS AND MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Abby Matter, Deacon, Director of Faith Formation

Confirmation was clearly the highlight of the '20-'21 school year. While it moved online and was shortened in length to accommodate online attention spans of youth and adults alike, it continued to be a meaningful experience for all involved. It was easily my favorite part of the week as it was my only opportunity to see youth and adult small group leaders.

The most memorable moment was definitely egg roulette. Audrey and I each were given a half dozen eggs of which two were raw and four were hard boiled. We then took turns cracking these eggs against our foreheads. Unsurprisingly, this provided great entertainment for students. Entertainment was not the main goal, but an added bonus. We were actually beginning our series on the Adam Hamilton book entitled *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times*. And we sure were living in scary, uncertain times.

After cracking eggs on our heads, we asked students if they saw any hesitation from Audrey and I during egg roulette? It was followed up with, if you had to do it, would you be afraid? The conversation was about fear. It is not surprising at all to hear that "Americans are more afraid today than they have been in a long time." And this book was written pre pandemic. We were reminded in the opening chapters of five main points:

- Everyone has fears
- Fear is a gift
- Fear doesn't have to control you
- Facing our fears can liberate us
- Faith can help us overcome fear

Did you read those points carefully? Because if you skimmed over them, I want you to really hear point five. Faith can help us overcome fear. One of the most repeated instructions in the Bible is "Don't be afraid." These words, in one form or another, appear over 140 times in scripture. It reminds us that ordinary people struggled with fear. But they also show us that faith can be pivotal to overcoming fear and finding peace in uncertain times.

The past year was filled with uncertainty and while in some ways it feels like we are out of the woods, we still don't know what tomorrow brings. But we are reminded in Joshua 19 to "be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid. The Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go." I pray that you feel God's presence in the midst of your fear and yearn to see all your bright, shining faces this fall. As always, know that I am here to listen, talk, and walk along side of you in whatever ways I can. So please don't hesitate to reach out! The easiest way to get ahold of me is via email. You can contact me at amatter@rosevillelutheran.org



JESUS' POWER CAN HELP US DO AMAZING THINGS!

Julie Hanson, Director of Children's Ministry

As I write this, we completed our first Family Vacation Bible school in the evenings outside using Rocky Railway from Group publishing. Families gathered to hear how Jesus' power pulls us through the ups and downs of life. Each day we learned a new Bible point; Jesus power helps us do hard things, gives us hope, help us be bold, helps us make new friends. Each time we say the Bible point the kids and their parents would shout out "Trust Jesus". These points were certainly true this past year. Jesus power helped us all do amazing things and we had to trust Jesus more than ever!

This last year we were creative in trying to connect with kids and families. We intentionally prayed for each family in our ministry. We offered "Fun with Ms Gena" via zoom for our preschool and early elementary friends. We opened up our Activity Center in the cold winter months for families to use to "run off energy" with their kids. Packets were sent out to families for Advent and Christmas as well as Lent and Easter with activities and fun things for kids to do with their families. Our first virtual Christmas program, "Pass it On" showed how creative and talented our kids and families are.

Drive Thru Christmas was a new and fun collaborative event with 2 of our neighboring churches, that allowed families to drive through parking lots and get the message of Christmas from the safety of their own cars. We invited parents to send in cute pics of their kids that we made into postcards to send out



Last but certainly not least, if you are interested in learning more about middle school programs and Confirmation, I encourage you to view our website www.rosevillelutheran.org/ages-and-stages. We are still working on the details for fall. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have!



Love
God
Love
Your
Neighbor

to every person in our congregation to send them a smile in the middle of winter. Our Family Good Friday service was held outside, and although windy, kids assembled resurrection eggs to help them remember the story of Holy Week and Easter. Celebration bags were handed out at our Easter service to give kids ways to celebrate our Risen Lord.

Although our doors were closed, we didn't stop offering opportunities for families to help others! Our dresser build was offered to families as a "Build it at Home" event, and your generosity helped us build more dressers than ever before – 70 rather than 52! We offered tie blanket kits to pick up and make at home, as well as held our Kitchen Bundles event outside this spring, assembling over 100 for clients of Bridging.

The Children's Ministry Team has been meeting monthly throughout the pandemic, both virtually and in person to discuss and plan what Sunday mornings and Children's Ministry will look like post-pandemic. How can we partner with parents, meeting them where they are to help them lead their children in their faith journey? How can we make their church experience both meaningful and fun for kids?

Our mission statement for Children's Ministry this coming year is

Connect, Explore, and Act on God's Love.



Our team felt that each of these words can mean different things to each of us in all areas of Roseville Lutheran Church, not just Children's Ministry.

- Connect – How can we connect with one another, to catch up with our church friends, and also connect with those outside our walls? How can we listen to their stories and tell our own?
- Explore – Let's dig into our faith. Let's dig into the Bible to discover God's amazing love for each of us. Let's explore what it means to be a Christian and show God's love to our neighbors. Let's explore what our church would look like if we were truly welcoming to everyone.
- Act – How can we act out God's love? How can we act with grace and mercy to ensure justice and care for those in need of God's love? How can we act outside of our walls so that others we don't know can see God's love and Jesus' example?

As we begin to gather together again our hope is that we can be more meaningful and intentional with what we do. We walk together with you to help kids grow in their faith, and as such, want to support parents in any way we can. We have missed seeing you, and look forward to seeing you this fall!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, my door is always open and I welcome your comments. We are trying new things, but know there will be some challenges and details to address. If you are interested in being a part of Children's Ministry on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, please contact Julie Hanson at: jhanson@rosevillelutheran.org.



WE ARE BLESSED... BECAUSE WE SURVIVED!

Jenifer Johnson, RLC Preschool Director

RLC Preschool and Childcare staff and families are very grateful we were able to be open during most of the pandemic. At times, we felt we had a bubble around us, protecting us because we had no Covid-19 cases that affected us to shut down. Yes, we took a risk being open, but we (the staff of the preschool and childcare) felt we had an essential service and care we needed to provide to our families and community.

And our families were more than appreciative of this service, as was shown to the staff during Teacher Appreciation week in May. Cards, gifts, balloons, and more were given to the staff to say "thanks." But most of all each day was a blessing, as we heard at least one parent say, "Thanks for being open, I don't know how our family could have done it without you!"

So, how did our preschool and childcare survive? We followed our Covid-19 guidelines thoroughly from the CDC, MN Dept. of Health, and MN Dept of Human Services. This meant staff, parents, and children wore masks, we washed hands (A LOT!)/or used Hand Sanitizer, did temperature/symptomatic checks each day, cleaned our toys and equipment daily if not hourly, and had ionizing units to purify the air. The preschool also changed how they did check-in and check-out by having families enter in the upper lobby (instead of using the preschool entrance) and having teachers meet the students and escort them to the rooms. By not having parents escort them to their classroom allowed for less people entering the classroom, and not as many people being in a confined space. Plus, we learned that children under the age of 5 had a lower risk of transmission, along with having lower classroom sizes for both the preschool and childcare helped the programs. The lower numbers did hurt us financially, but we were blessed to receive some MN State grants to aide in covering some of our costs.



Then mid-year preschool and childcare staff received news that we qualified to get vaccinated in a Pilot Program for the Covid-19 vaccine. Hallelujah! The teachers were so excited to receive this vaccine. It was such a gift to receive. For many of the staff it was like a huge weight had been lifted and a new energy was given.

Going forward this school year, the preschool and childcare have learned from the Governor, that the mask mandate and peacetime emergency has been lifted. This allows the preschool and the childcare programs to resume to a more "normal" environment as we did prior to the pandemic.

However, we will still have a Covid-19 policy in place for reference, masks will be optional, and we found we liked some of our Covid-19 changes due to the health and safety aspect, that we will continue to use them. In addition, the preschool will continue the check-in and check-out system in the upper lobby, because it was not only safer, but the children had less separation anxiety.

The other tool that helped us survive this year was purely our faith. Through songs, prayers, and praise we are thankful we survived, yet we are more blessed that we could continue to serve the children and their families in our childcare and preschool programs.

Thanks again to everyone in our congregation and families in our programs who have supported us in our fundraisers (i.e. Poinsettia Sale and Spring Plant Sale), as well as spiritually. The Preschool will continue these fundraisers this next year! We appreciate you helping us plant the seed of faith in our young students.

If you have a child who is 3 or 4 by Sept. 1, 2021, we still have some openings in the preschool program this year. For more information, or to set up a tour, please contact the director at RLCPreschool@rosevillelutheran.org or 651-488-6887.



SUNDAY MORNINGS ARE GOING TO LOOK DIFFERENT THIS FALL

A Note from Julie Hanson, Director of Children's Ministry

Before we had to shut down programming in March 2020, many parents told us that being at church for over 2 hours each Sunday, attending both worship and Sunday school was just too long of a time commitment. To address this challenge, we are offering RLC Kids on Sundays at two different times during Worship, at 9:00 or 10:30. Parents will choose which service they will most likely attend and register their children for RLC Kids at that time.

Preschool and Kindergarten kids will be with Ms. Gena for the whole hour, breaking into small groups after they sing songs and hear the story. 1st-6th graders will start in worship with their families and leave after Storytime, to reinforce the message they just heard in worship, in Large group. Older kids will dig into their bibles, younger kids will sing and praise God together. The kids will then re-join their families in worship toward the end of the service. This will give kids the opportunity to participate in communion, baptisms and prayer with their family. Worshipping together as a family is an important part of our faith. While the Sunday School time apart from worship is much shorter, the whole experience of worship and RLC Kids time will be more meaningful.

We are going to offer other special times together for parents to connect and kids to play and get to know their new friends. We will continue to offer a Dresser Build and Kitchen Bundle event, as well as other service projects on Sundays. Lunch Bunch will be offered periodically, where kids bring a sack lunch and stay after the 10:30 service to eat together, play games and generally socialize. Parents can then either stay and connect with one another, run errands, or have brunch themselves.

Wednesday night is church night! Starting in October, we are inviting families to join us for a simple meal and Family Blessing service. Dinner will be served and as families eat around their tables the pastor will give a short recap of their message. We will have activities for the families to do that reinforce this message, along with a service component. Families will need to register for the meal to ensure we have enough food. A free will offering will be asked.

It is going to be a challenge get up from the couch and actually get out the door on a Sunday. It has been a very stressful year and very challenging in a lot of ways! If you can't make it on Sunday, maybe Wednesday night works for you!

As we begin to gather together again our hope is that we can be more meaningful and intentional with what we do. We walk together with you to help kids grow in their faith, and as such want to support parents in any way we can. We have missed seeing you, and look forward to seeing you this fall!

LIVELY LANDSCAPERS

KJ Bach

The ‘Lively Landscapers’ team was initiated in early 2020 to tend to the RLC gardens. There was much to be done as the gardens had not been tended to in earnest for a few years. It took many volunteer hours to simply cleanup up and trim up the existing gardens. Here are the highlights of the Lively Landscapers efforts in the summer of 2020 and Spring 2021:

The Roselawn Ave Rain Gardens were completely renovated. The City of Roseville hired Outdoor Lab Landscapers to tend to City owned gardens. With the help of the Lively Landscapers, the Rain Gardens native plantings bloomed beautifully!

25 yr old Arborvitae, overgrown and unattractive, were removed from the west side of the South Commons entrance. Tulips and other perennials were planted and the area mulched. What a difference this made to now SEE the entrance to Commons and be greeted by colorful plantings.

The South Parking Lot islands got a start to having ornamental grass, day lilies and sedum planted to help break up the asphalt and concrete expanse. More islands will get renovated as funding is available.

With the Arborvitae removed from the South Entrance, the large utility boxes were a bit of an eye-sore. The boxes were painted to help camouflage them, but also, a used cedar fence was installed. The materials were donated by Roseville Auto Repair as their backyard fence was being replaced. A yardwaste bin was built by the Child Care House garage using more of the donated fencing. Thanks, Roseville Auto Repair for providing this material.



In Spring 2021, 20 cubic yards of mulch was delivered and with a couple of afternoons of volunteers with wheelbarrows, the South Slope & Terrace area to the west of the Commons entrance and the North Slope of the Worship Center were re-mulched! Free mulch has also been retrieved from county compost sites for many other smaller areas.

The Lively Landscapers used Thrivent Action Team Grants to fund their startup costs. Volunteers purchased plants themselves, but many plants have also been donated by various RLC members and even RLC neighbors.

2020 Team members: Julie & Tim Hanson, Rich & Julie Wendland, KJ Bach, Martha Mutch, Joanne Otis, Dave Risinger, Dave Werner, Kathy Pedersen. 2021 Team members: Julie & Tim Hanson, Rich & Julie Wendland, KJ Bach, Martha Mutch, Joanne Otis, Dave Werner, Kathy Pedersen, Linda Satrom, Jan Brudvig.

INCLUSION TASK FORCE

Four years ago, Roseville Lutheran Church adopted its Mission Statement, “Love God. Love Your Neighbor,” and its Vision Statement, “A Community United by Grace.” Among the five ways identified to live out these statements, RLC vowed to

- Celebrate without exception the diversity in our community
- Embrace honesty and invite candid discussion

The Inclusion Task Force is furthering the conversation specifically along these two vows. LGBTQ+ people have always been a part of this congregation. The task force is hosting a series of small group conversations this summer and fall for members to discuss and explore what it means to recognize and celebrate LGBTQ+ diversity.

Task force members are: Audrey Dontje Lindell, Linda Eldred, Elizabeth Jacobson, Katrina McMahon, Wendy Neupauer, Daniel Pederson, Jill Peterson, Trupti Storlie, Val Velde and Pastor Chris Hagen.



A DIFFERENT KIND OF NORMAL

Connie Marchio, Hospitality Manager

As we are going forward into this new fiscal year, RLC Hospitality Ministry is starting out stronger than expected as we are now able to receive all the guests that we have missed during the past year.

We are adjusting to new and different job descriptions and welcome the change as we are moving forward.

During the past year, even though we have not been able to have indoor events, I still tried to stay in contact with the community through the gift of food. The only help that I could have in the kitchen with me was Julie Wendland (thank you so much Julie). We made and produced several hundred meals for several people of all walks of life, the most memorable experience was delivering meals to the Minneapolis Police Department. Even though I was a bit concerned about traveling there, they met me with open arms and safety.

I am looking forward to the upcoming events that will be happening at the church and I look forward to seeing all the volunteers again, and I am excited for them to help me coordinate these events.

My hope is that you will be joining us in the fall for the upcoming Rally and Reunion festival on Sunday, Sept. 12. Oktoberfest is also an event that will be very interesting to me as it will be my Italian attempt in making German food, so please give me a little grace on this adventure.

I know this has been a different and unusual time, but as we start to gather back together we can thank God for giving us a chance to be with our families and be able to take care of others that may have not been able to take care of themselves.

Thank you RLC for letting me serve you, I am so humbled by the work that the congregation puts into this church to make it the best it can be.

Sempre Famiglia (Always Family)
Connie Marchio



WE REMAIN HOPEFUL

John Helgen, Director of Music

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's name; make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples. Sing to the Lord, sing praises, and speak of all God's marvelous works.

– Psalm 105

As we turned to the fall season in September 2020, the musicians of Roseville Lutheran remained on hiatus due to the restrictions brought on by the global health pandemic. No rehearsals or performances for choirs, bell groups, brass ensemble, worship ensembles, or the jazz band. As the fall progressed, it became clear that worship would continue to be held only online, that there'd be no Christmas Festival concert, no New Year's Eve jazz concert, and all the outside performing groups that use RLC for concerts cancelled their events. We realized we'd need to hold our worship services for Advent and Christmas online. And by the end of the year, we knew that the situation was going to extend well into 2021 and affect our worship services for Lent, Holy Week and Easter, and beyond.



We continued with our production of weekly videos for worship, videotaping liturgy, readings, storytime, sermons, prayers, and music every Tuesday in preparation for the upcoming Sunday. Pastor Lauren coordinated the preaching and assisting minister schedules, Diane Sell the readers, Julie Hanson was in charge of storytime, Nick Clausen shot and edited the video, Jeff Bowar did the audio recording, and John Helgen coordinated and led the musicians. Thanks to all the many people that served as readers, leaders, musicians, or gave other assistance to make all this happen!



Fun highlights from the year were our production of two special "music videos" – the first was a performance of "Night of Silence/Silent Night" which aired as part of our Christmas Eve worship, and involved numerous singers along with brass, strings, handbells and percussion. Then, in May 2021, we released a performance of "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" as part of the "PRAISE RLC" campaign, which featured vocalists, multiple percussion instruments, and a cadre of enthusiastic young dancers!

As the winter came to an end, we were happy to be able to hold drive-in services in the church parking lot for Palm Sunday and Easter, broadcasting on FM radio to the cars of those attending. Palm Sunday featured a festive palm parade led by bagpipes and drum, and on Easter Sunday the RLC brass ensemble joined with the worship band to lead the music. The drive-in services have continued on the first Sunday of each month through the summer.

A big initiative during this pandemic-constricted year has been our preparations to create the capability to live-stream worship services on the internet (as well as community television.) Now that we are getting back to in-person worship, people will be able to watch the worship service "live" online, and also later at a time of their choosing, from the archive on the church website. This will require both equipment – video cameras, control units for the cameras, a control room for equipment and production, lots of wiring, and people to run it. Having this capability is important for RLC's future, as we seek to reach out to members who are not physically able to attend in-person on Sundays, due to restrictions from health, work, travel, weather, family, etc. The ability to live-stream also enables people to participate in our worship services from remote locations and at different times. As we go forward, we hope to expand our capabilities for live-streaming to include education events, concerts, conferences and other productions.

So, as we turn to the fall of 2021, we remain hopeful – hopeful that we will be able to resume our usual musical activities in the way we love to do them. Roseville Lutheran has been richly blessed by the gifts of its many musicians, who participate in the choirs, handbell choirs, worship ensembles and bands, the brass ensemble, and the jazz band. We look forward to their return to our worship life.

"We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord; to care for all without reserve, and spread his liberating word."

– Fred Pratt Green (ELW 729)
The Church of Christ in Every Age

RLC ANNUAL MEETING

10:00 am, Sunday, August 29, 2021

in the RLC Worship Center

PROPOSED AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Review of Meeting Rules
3. Approval of Prior Year's Minutes
4. President's Report
5. President-Elect's Report
6. Nominations
6. Budget Proposal and Vote
7. Closing Prayer

REGISTER FOR ZOOM LINK IF UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON

RLC members may also join this meeting on **Zoom** if unable/unwilling to attend in person. **PLEASE register by 12:00 noon, Friday, August 27** so you can get the link to the meeting. You may register online at **www.rosevillelutheran.org/annual**.

If you have trouble signing in on Sunday, please call the office at 651-487-7752.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

VISION

• LOVE GOD •
LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR

MISSION

COMMUNITY
UNITED
BY GRACE