
LIVING FAITH CHURCH AT TRADITION, INC.

Annual Congregation Meeting

January 31, 2021



Who Are We?

Living Faith is a spiritual worshipping community that celebrates the gifts of God that empower us to engage in the struggles of life, to care for each other, and to serve Christ where we work and live.

We welcome the participation of people of all ages, faiths, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, educational backgrounds, and economic conditions – all who want to join in community to honor God and be of service to people. We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God and by the grace of God is called a “child of God.”

Living Faith is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The ELCA is a community of faith that shares a passion for making positive changes in the world. Our faith is built around a strong belief in God as made known to us in Jesus Christ. Through worship, service, and education, we practice our faith, grow our relationship with God and experience God’s grace in our lives.

Mission

Living Faith Church is an affirming worshipping community sharing God’s word and love in the world so:

- **Everywhere We Go**
- **Everyone We Meet**
- **Everything We Do**
- **We are Christ’s Hand and Feet**

Vision

The vision of Living Faith Church is to make known to all the forgiveness, love, and mercy of God’s grace given through Jesus Christ.

Values

In accordance with the values of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) our values are grounded in faith, in our biblical and Lutheran confessional sources and our love of God and neighbor. They speak to the way this church lives and practices our faith, and they will guide how we journey forward in Christ as church together.

Forgiveness and reconciliation – We are reconciled to God by God’s forgiving mercy. Forgiveness and reconciliation flow from what God has made us to be in Jesus Christ and what God is doing with us in the world. As a people of God, we embody forgiveness in speech, action and relationships, and our ministry in reconciliation is foundational.

Dignity, compassion and justice – Each person is created in God’s image. We respect this God-given right to dignity and, inspired by the life of Jesus, show love and compassion for all people. Through proclamation of the gospel, through worship and as servants of God working for healing and justice in the world, we uphold and seek to protect the dignity and human rights of all people.

Inclusion and diversity – As Christ’s church, we value the richness of God’s creation and offer a radical welcome to all people, appreciating our common humanity and our differences. We are a church that does not view diversity as a barrier to unity. We recognize and will challenge dynamics of power and privilege that create barriers to participation and equity in this church and society – for women, people of color, minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities, people who are marginalized or living in poverty, and the LGBTQ community.

Courage and openness to change – Because we trust in God’s promise and understand faith to be a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, we are emboldened to embrace learning and change in our spiritual and institutional journey as a church. This means we are open to new ways and willing to take risks to discover God’s plan for this church.

Faithful stewardship of God’s creation and gifts – As church together, faithful stewardship is about holding to God’s purpose and ensuring the responsibilities and resources that God has entrusted to us are used with great care and with accountability to God, to each other and those served by this church.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

This year has been a challenging one! The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the church and society. We have had to shift the ways we engage in ministry from a focus on in-person worship and meetings to livestream worship, virtual meetings and gatherings in the parking lot. We have had to shift to teaching children at home and working from home. We have not been able to travel to see friends or relatives or to celebrate life events. This has also been a time to address economic and social justice issues, to shift our thinking and our way of life.

In times such as this, our baptism in Christ makes a difference and makes us different. Like Christians before us, we recall that God is faithful to God's promises and God's people. We see that God enables us to connect with one another even when we are separated. Shifts in the world invite us to be innovative in how we do God's work and reach out to all ages in making disciples. We see that God is at work not only in our buildings but beyond them as well. We have found new ways to serve our neighbors and reach those in need.

As we experience this time of uncertainty, we sense something new emerging. In many places there are new strategies and renewed energy for ministry, often generated by emerging leaders. We have developed a framework to build on, and now is the time to engage in hard work together. As you do in your congregation, we want our collaborative efforts to be both faithfully thoughtful and sustainable. We want to build up the body of Christ today and for the future.

Looking across the church, I am grateful for your generous giving of time, talents and resources. Yes, God does continue to bless us! God will provide both relief from life's struggles and hope for a stronger church, God's church. We do not need to know how the future will unfold. As members in the body of Christ, we need only trust that God is with us and will provide.

Building up the body of Christ together,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

***"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." —
Ephesians 4:11-16***

In the early verses of Ephesians 4, the apostle Paul writes to the Christians in Ephesus, a city on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of a river and at the intersection of three trading routes. The letter was written about ten years after the church had started. During the early years of this congregation, Jews and Gentiles from several ethnicities and nationalities had come together to form “one body.” Paul was aware that they had done well and commended them for their faith and love.

The word “one” appears more than seven times in the first four verses. This reflects the importance Paul gave to being called into the “unity of Christ.” He wanted to note that, although many of the church members came from far off, there is “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” This oneness reflects God’s gift of reconciliation in Christ.

A second emphasis from Paul was that, as believers, they were to “bear with one another in love.” This would require humility, gentleness and patience as each of them practiced their faith. It would require tolerance to “maintain unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

A third emphasis was that each person had been given gifts by God and that these gifts were given to increase the whole. Because the Ephesian church was a young congregation and its members were just beginning in their faith journey, their understandings were often tossed to and fro. But as they grew in faith, each person contributed to building up the body of Christ.

The fourth and final emphasis was that by “speaking the truth in love,” each person must grow into Christ. This means taking time to learn about one another and their gifts. Knowing these gifts, we can do God’s work both within and beyond the faith community. When there are decisions to make or relationships to reconcile, we know to begin with prayer and reflection, always desiring to speak the truth in love — not for our own benefit but for God’s glory, that we might become more complete.

As our members and friends gather today, whether face-to-face or online, we are reminded of our calling into “unity in Christ.” We come from many places and work in many contexts, and yet we recognize “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.”

Whether new to a worshiping community or further along the journey, we realize that humility, gentleness and patience are required both in the good times and especially in times of uncertainty and struggle. God wants us to be more complete through our work. Christ provides the way. The Holy Spirit is with us for guidance and courage. Each of us has been given the gifts to be complete, and through our faithfulness we will grow stronger and work together as one body.

Let us pray: Lord, let the words of the apostle Paul dwell in us deeply. May we embrace the reconciling power of oneness with Christ. May this oneness guide our congregation as we live into the new realities of these times. As we meet new partners in ministry, may we take time to get to know them with patience, humility and love. Help us to see how sharing our gifts will make your work easier and more fulfilling while bringing all of us closer to Christ. May the blessings you give each day strengthen us to a living, daring confidence in your grace. Amen.

**Annual Meeting of Congregation
Living Faith Church at Tradition, Inc.
Sunday, January 31, 11:30 AM
Lakeview Terrace at St. Lucie Trail Golf Club
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986**

AGENDA

Call To Order	Beth Bartholomew
Opening Prayer	Pastor Maryanne Kehlenbach
Respectful Meeting Covenant	Beth Bartholomew
Approval of 2020 Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes	Ken Bauer
Report of the President	Beth Bartholomew
Report of the Pastor	Pastor Maryanne Kehlenbach
Ministry Reports	(recording)
Election of Council Members	Ken Bauer
Financial Reports	Bill Parrott (recording)
Building Committee Update	Ken Bauer
Other Business	Beth Bartholomew
Recognitions and Thanks	Pastor Maryanne Kehlenbach
Benediction and Adjournment	Pastor Maryanne Kehlenbach

Opening Litany

L: Gathering together as God's people in this place, may we always be aware of your presence in our midst.

P: Lord, may we always be aware of your presence.

L: Knowing that the Word is our light, may we continue to grow in our scriptural and confessional understandings.

P: Lord, may our minds continue to grow in your word.

L: Recognizing that stepping out in faith is not easy, we ask that you give us strength, O Lord, to listen and be bold and daring.

P: Lord, give us patience to listen and the strength to be bold and daring.

L: While we strive to know ourselves and your will for us, may we build our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

P: Lord, help us to build faith-filled and healthy relationships with others.

L: Recognizing that we are often the ones asking, "And who is my neighbor?," may we open our eyes, ears and hearts to all those in the community in which we live.

P: Lord, may we always be open to those in the community in which we live.

L: Recognizing the importance of Moses, the prophets and disciples, may we work together to accompany and raise up leaders for your church.

P: Lord, may we have insight, encouragement and skills to raise up courageous leaders.

L: Recognizing the many gifts you have entrusted to us, may we use these gifts to do your work in the world today.

P: Lord, may we use the gifts entrusted to us to do your work.

L: Let us pray. As we strive to become the church of the present and the future, may we nurture a spirit of collaboration and solidarity. May we all be partners in sharing the gospel and believing in Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.

P: Amen.

Members of the Congregation Council:

Beth Bartholomew	President
Ken Bauer	Vice-President
Jeannie Boyle	(served until her death on April 15, 2020)
Rev Maryanne Kehlenbach	Pastor
Bill Parrott	Treasurer
Lisa Smith	Secretary
Jason Demetres	
Patricia Walker	

Respectful Communications Guidelines by Eric Law

R = take RESPONSIBILITY for what you say and feel without blaming others

E = use EMPATHETIC listening

S = be SENSITIVE to differences in communication styles

P = PONDER what you hear and feel before you speak

E = EXAMINE your own assumptions and perceptions

C = keep CONFIDENTIALITY

T = TRUST ambiguity because we are not here to debate who is right or wrong

I agree to uphold these guidelines for the time we have together.

Meeting Date/Time: Annual Meeting of Living Faith Church
2/2/2020 11:30 AM

Meeting Location: Lakeview Terrance at St. Lucie Trail Golf Club
951 SW Country Club Drive
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986

Attendees: The Congregation Council
The Living Faith Church Congregation

ITEMS DISCUSSED

Ken Bauer called the 2020 Annual Congregation Meeting to order at 11:32 AM. The presence of 20% of voting members is required for a quorum. Pastor Maryanne and Carl Kehlenbach independently counted the number of members present and reported that 60 members out of a total of 106 voting members were present, so a quorum existed.

Pastor Maryanne led the congregation in the opening prayer (see the 2019 Annual Report as available and distributed prior to the meeting). She then introduced the Council Members to the congregation.

Lisa Smith reviewed the Respectful Meeting Covenant and the congregation agreed to uphold the RESPECT-related guidelines. Lisa Smith then reviewed the 2019 Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes.

Congregation Action: A motion was made by Pat Walker (2) to approve the 2019 Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Phil Long. The congregation unanimously approved the motion.

Council President Beth Bartholomew presented the Report of the President.
Pastor Maryanne Kehlenbach presented the Report of the Pastor.
Pat Walker (1) presented the Ministry Reports of the Congregation.

Lisa Smith presented the amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations as approved by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. The following resolution was presented to the congregation for approval:

Whereas, amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations were made at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly in August 2019, and

Whereas, the 2019 Churchwide Assembly authorized the secretary of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to:

- strike “synodical” and replace with “synod”
- strike “the congregation” and replace with “this congregation” where appropriate

- make editorial changes so that the Model Constitution for Congregations follows the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Constitution for Synods., and

Whereas, Living Faith Church in Tradition, Inc is required to approve the adoption of these amendments to their Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions at its next regularly scheduled meeting of the congregation,

Resolved, The Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of Living Faith Church at Tradition, Inc dated April 30, 2017 be amended to reflect the 2019 Model Constitution for Congregations that was approved at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

Congregation Action: A motion was made by Linda Carter to approve the resolution as stated above. The motion was seconded by Dennis Lord. The congregation unanimously approved the motion.

Lisa Smith presented the election of two new Council Members. The positions held by George Scheuerlein and Jeannie Boyle had expired. The Nominations Committee offered the following two candidates for the three-year term positions. Those candidates are Jeannie Boyle and Jason Demetres. The floor was open for additional nominations. With no further nominations being made, the slate of candidates for the Congregation Council was presented to the Congregation for action.

Congregation Action: A motion was made by Liz Chiolan to close the nominations and elect the nominees. The motion was seconded by Ed Luddy. The congregation unanimously approved the motion.

Bill Parrott presented the Financial Report (see the 2019 Annual Report). The total of all accounts is \$312,432.43. Bill then showed the 2019 Actual to the 2020 Proposed Spending Plans and also the 2019 Actuals to the 2019 Proposed Spending Plan. While the 2020 Proposed Expenditures of \$173,287 exceeds the 2020 Proposed Revenues of \$154,800, there are sufficient Operating Funds to cover any actual deficiencies anticipated of \$18,487.

Congregation Action: A motion was made by Judy Bauer to approve the 2020 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Dave Pierz. The congregation unanimously approved the motion.

The meeting then focused on any Other Business as led by Council President Beth Bartholomew. With no Other Business, a motion was made by Sharon Corcoran to close the meeting. The motion was seconded by Izzy Wiscovitch and the meeting closed at 12:15 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting Date/Time: Living Faith Church Special Meeting of the Congregation
6/14/2020 11:00 AM
Meeting Location: Zoom Teleconference
Attendees: The Congregation Council
The Living Faith Church Congregation

Purpose of the Meeting:

This congregation meeting was announced via email 3 weeks prior, and on June 7th at the conclusion of the Building Committee Congregation Presentation where the Building Committee status, financials and the Council recommended building design were reviewed. The intent and purpose of this Special Congregation Meeting is to:

1. respond to any questions that the congregation may have regarding the new church building (design, financials, etc) after review and thoughtful consideration of the Council recommendations presented within the June 4th Building Committee Update and
2. vote and receive congregation approval for the church Council to move forward with the new church building design and secure a \$1.0 M mortgage

Items Discussed:

Pastor Maryanne opened the meeting in prayer. Ken Bauer then called the congregation meeting to order reminding of the new Phase I design recommendations and accompanying financials as presented to the congregation by the Building Committee on June 7, 2021. The Building Committee members and Council members then supported discussion and responded to all questions from the congregation.

Prior to voting on the Council recommendations, it is noted that 20% of the voting members required for a quorum exists as Pastor Maryanne and Carl Kehlenbach independently counted the number of members present and reported that 60 members out of a total of 105 voting members were present.

Congregation Vote #1: The motion to approve the new Phase 1 building design and construction with a total cost of \$1.4 million as presented on June 7, 2020 and reviewed again within this meeting, was made and seconded. The congregation unanimously approved the motion.

Congregation Vote #2: The motion to acquire a mortgage in the amount of \$1 million not to exceed a 4% interest rate was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the congregation.

With no other business for this Special Congregation Meeting, a motion was made and seconded to close the meeting.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to my sisters and brothers in Christ.

It has been a very unique year for Living Faith Church. I had predicted an amazing year ahead for 2020. The year was amazing, but not exactly what I had envisioned. The routine of in person services was disrupted by the emergence of COVID-19 early in the year. We adapted initially with YouTube recorded worship services. A special thank you to Carl for all the hard work with the video church services. After six months of virtual services only, we did resume in person worship with live video while continuing recordings. The Church Council met monthly with zoom meetings and elected to resume the services with masks for all participants, social distancing including seating and no in person singing. This seems to have struck a happy medium allowing us to have worship together, while providing a safe atmosphere to do so. At this point with the pandemic raging on, we will continue with these measures. The council will continue to monitor and make adjustments as appropriate. For now I do not see any changes in the near future.

The COVID-19 outbreak impacted essentially every aspect of the church and congregation. Church activities and fellowship were initially curtailed. As the year progressed, some were able to restart. Thank you to all who were able to continue with the outreach ministries during these difficult times. The annual Florida-Bahama Synod assembly was not held in 2020 due to COVID-19. The financial impact was minimized by receiving Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) money from the United States government, increased tithing from Pastor Maryanne and Carl and minor budget changes.

Living Faith Church is still moving forward with our return to Tradition. We had a very successful capital appeal campaign in 2019. Our congregation has continued strongly with contributions that now total \$796,000 of the over \$850,000 in year two of the three-year commitment. You will recall we purchased a property in Tradition in October 2019. The building committee continues to progress and we do anticipate starting the physical construction of the new church this year. We are hopeful it will be completed for Christmas services.

Thank you to the council and congregation for persevering through such difficult times. I am confident that in 2021 we will emerge into a season of new growth, ready to spread the word and love of Christ Jesus.

Blessings from Beth Bartholomew,
Your Living Faith Council President

Report of the Pastor

One year ago we gathered together for the Living Faith Church Annual Meeting of the Congregation. It was a joyous time of celebration as we reflected on God's ministry in and through the congregation. It was a time when we remembered those saints that had been called to their heavenly home as well as members who were baptized into Christ's family here on earth. At that time we had no idea that the following month the entire world, including our country was entering a new era in which a deadly global pandemic dictated how we would conduct our daily lives. We had to rapidly move into a new way of "being" together so that we as well as all others could stay safe and healthy. For the first time we were unable to worship in person for months at a time - including Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter and Pentecost. We all quickly learned about physical distancing; virtual school; virtual worship; ZOOM gatherings; PPE (personal protective equipment) inclusive of the proper way to wear a mask; and "sheltering in place." We also learned how to creatively connect and be with each other - our families, neighbors, and our faith community.

While anxiety was extremely high and remains to be so, we have learned that God is right here with us in the midst of this "storm" and this uncertainty. We discovered the presence of the Holy Spirit through daily devotions and meditations using FaceBook and YouTube. We entered the realm of new and exciting ways to worship together, fellowship together, and study scripture together. During this challenging year, we never stopped **being** God's beloved children, and as the body of Christ, we never stopped working together to further God's kingdom here on earth.

I remain excited to be a part of all the outreach ministries Living Faith participates in and throughout our community. Thank you for continuing to allow me the honor of being your pastor and fellow servant to God's children throughout the world.

Below please find the Year End 2020 statistics as it relates to our congregation:

Baptized Members:	110*
>=16	98
<= 15	12
Voting Members:	98

* Over the past year, many of our members have moved out of the area or passed to the Church Triumphant.

Much love in Christ,
Pastor Maryanne Kehlenbach

MINISTRY REPORTS

Worship Team Ministries

Music Team Ministry

Prepared by Pastor Maryanne Kehlenbach



In February, 2020, we welcomed Mariano Garcia IV as the new Director of Music Ministry at Living Faith Church. Mariano has brought a new dynamic to the music ministry at Living Faith and we had the opportunity to discover his talent in person, prior to March 15th. Once we moved to virtual worship, Mariano was quick to adapt and provide virtual recordings for our worship service and has worked with our musicians to bring new and creative expressions to enhance the virtual service. Once we were able to gather together again, Mariano and the music team supplement the vocal recorded music with instrumental live renditions of worship hymns and songs.

The team has brought back some of our favorite pieces as well as new song choices. Once again this year, Liz Chiolan has composed new songs for worship. Some of our new song choices are actually ones that have never been sung or heard before.

We are incredibly blessed to have such a talented team of musicians who are up for the challenge each and every week to enhance our worship experience. Many thanks to Liz Chiolan, Mary Foley, Mariano Garcia IV, and Denise Walker for being so incredibly flexible and not “missing a beat” when the pandemic changed the way in which we would experience music in our worship services.

Setup/Takedown Team

Prepared by Pastor Maryanne Kehlenbach

It had started out to be another busy year for the Setup/Takedown Team at Living Faith. Since we rent space each Sunday to hold worship services, every Sunday of the year (as well as mid-week holy days), the space must be re-designed for worship. However, that quickly came to a halt on March 15th when Living Faith had to move from in-person worship to virtual worship due to COVID-19. Up until that point, numerous members served on various teams to prepare the welcome, information and refreshment tables inclusive of making the coffee. Other team members assisted with assembling the sound system for our musicians. There was also a team who focused on the altar which included preparing the Lord's Table with appropriate seasonal paraments as well as the communion elements and candles. And still others had set out the cross, hang banners, put out prayer bears, prepare the seating area, arrange/bring flowers and make sure that the outdoor signs are in position. Once we came back to worship in October, this setup team became limited to 2 people for health safety purposes.

When worship is completed - teams come together to take everything down, clean the areas up and place everything back into bins and move them into the onsite storage closet. Thank you to all the volunteers who are dedicated to this ministry every week! If you are interested in serving on this team, please speak with Carl Kehlenbach.

Communion Assistant Team

Prepared by Pastor Maryanne Kehlenbach

For the first 2 1/2 months of 2020, 3 members of the congregation had assisted Pastor Maryanne with the distribution of the Lord's Supper. Many thanks to Liz Travers for coordinating the schedule for this team. Once we began to gather again in October, the distribution of communion has changed to ensure the health safety of the congregation.

Usher Team

Prepared by Pastor Maryanne Kehlenbach

For the first 2 1/2 months of 2020, 2 members of the congregation served as ushers during worship service. Many thanks to Larry Walker for coordinating the schedule for this team and for those who took the courageous step forward to volunteer for this important ministry team. At this time, the scheduling of ushers has been put on hold and those who have been trained will be invited to assist as needed.

Greeter Team

Prepared by Pastor Maryanne Kehlenbach

For the first 2 1/2 months of 2020, 1-2 members of the congregation serve as greeters, welcoming people to worship and helping them if it is their first time worshiping at Living Faith. Many thanks to Denise Walker for coordinating the schedule for this team and to those of you who said yes to God's call on their hearts to graciously welcome people into our worship space. At this time, the scheduling of greeters has been put on hold and those who have been trained will be invited to assist if needed.

Faith Formation and Development Ministries

KIDS 4 CHRIST

Prepared by Sharon Corcoran



For the first 2 1/2 months of 2020, KIDS 4 CHRIST met on Sunday mornings during the Adult Sermon. When COVID-19 kept us from worshipping together for 6+ months, Mrs. Sharon became a “video” star. Each week Mrs. Sharon shared a children’s bible story (sermon) which was distributed to our families via email and which was posted to the Living Faith YouTube Channel as well as our website and FaceBook page. Once it is safe to do so, the KIDS 4 CHRIST Sunday meeting time will begin again. Stay posted for when this group will be able to safely gather together again.

Bible Study

Prepared by Pastor Maryanne Kehlenbach



In-person Bible Study was held the first three Wednesday evenings from 7PM-8PM at the Brenntown in Tradition in January and February. Once it was no longer safe to gather together again, we moved to a virtual gathering via ZOOM. The name of our time together became - “Coffee with the Pastor” and the time moved to every Wednesday morning from 10AM-11AM. We have had a steady group that has joined in for fellowship, prayer and study together. Everyone is welcome to attend and you are encouraged to invite friends near and far to join in on our time together. We have had participants from many states as well as our snow birds who could participate when they were back up north. In the midst of chaos, the Holy Spirit has opened an entire new way for us to study scripture together, and this new way is no longer new at all.

Confirmation Study

Prepared by Pastor Maryanne Kehlenbach



Last January, our two Confirmation Candidates (Derek and Jacoby Smith Nautel) attended the LutherSprings Confirmation Retreat which focused on The New Testament. They both had completed their course of study and were set to Affirm their Baptism in April. However, due to COVID-19, the Affirmation was placed on hold. We are prayerful that this special service will be rescheduled in 2021.

In addition, four new students began their 3 year confirmation study (Emma Dooley; Noah Kehres,; Meredith Prince; Taegan Powell). The Confirmation Retreats scheduled for March and October, 2020 as well as January and March, 2021 were canceled due to the pandemic. The students currently meet twice a month on Wednesday evenings via Zoom. The focus for their first year of study is the Old Testament.

Outreach Ministries

Diaper Aid Ministry

Prepared by Denise Walker



The Diaper Aid Ministry provides diapers and baby wipes as well as feminine hygiene items to families who are unable to afford these much needed necessities. A new Diaper Aid program commenced in February 2020 with distributions occurring twice a month at the Jensen Beach Christian Church in Jensen Beach. In 2020, over 30,000 diapers were distributed!

The Diaper Aid program is part of the “Happy Baby Diaper Pantry of Southeast Florida” - a program run by the Treasure Coast Food Bank. Opportunities exist for volunteers to help with this much needed ministry. If you are interested please contact either Denise Walker or Carl Kehlenbach.

Loving Hands Ministry

Prepared by Pat Waker (2)



The Loving Hands Ministry continued to flourish while we were in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we use our creative and loving hearts and hands to spread God’s love in the community by meeting virtually via ZOOM. This wonderful group of talented and inspired hearts and hands have been able to create 37 blankets for the Linus Project in 2020.

Most of these blankets were full sized afghans which take twice as long to create. The Linus Project provides baby blankets and afghans for children from newborn to high school age, who are troubled, in foster care, or ill. In addition, Loving Hands created 12 full length blankets for the Hope Bags that are created and given to those patients undergoing chemotherapy. Infusion rooms are very cool, so this ministry provides a uniquely created afghan for patients to use during their treatments to keep them warm. The afghan is placed into a soft canvas bag along with a bottle of water and a special note of love and prayer. The Bags are then given to the treatment center and each new patient selects their very own Hope Bag

based on the afghan that appeals to them the most. The patients are invited use this bag containing their personal afghan each time they have treatment and replenish it with any additional items they may need. In 2020, Hospice suspended the receipt of lapghans due to the pandemic. In the first month of this new year (2021) Loving Hands donated 21 blankets to the Linus Project and 6 gratefulness scarves to US military personnel serving overseas. We meet on the first and third Monday evening of each month via ZOOM from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

We would like to give a special thank you to those who have generously supported us with both yarn and monetary gifts.

Prayer Bear Ministry

Prepared by Pastor Maryanne Kehlenbach



Living Faith's Prayer Bear Ministry blesses not only Living Faith parishioners, but others who receive Prayer Bears from us. This ministry has been put on hold since March 15, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This ministry began on September 28, 2014 under the oversight of Jeannie Boyle. Over 650 bears have been distributed, both locally, within the U.S., and even internationally. There are so many stories from Prayer Bear givers about the wonderful blessings the Prayer Bears have been to the receivers and equally felt by the givers. If you are in need of a Prayer Bear while they are "in hibernation", please speak with Pastor Maryanne. Once we are able to begin this ministry again we seek a volunteer who can coordinate the oversight and continued support of this ministry that was so dear to Jeannie Boyle.

Men at Work and Play Too

Prepared by David Pierz



This past year, our Men at Work continued to grow in numbers, and in our amount of giving back to our community. We continue the ADOPT-A-STREET program with our partners at the City of Port St. Lucie. We currently clean up 5.2 miles of road each month adding Tradition Parkway, where our new church will be located. Over the past year, our group has logged in approximately 40 miles of clean up while bagging 60 plus bags of trash. We now have 5 golf carts moving people around and proudly displaying our "LIVING FAITH CHURCH proudly serving our community" signs on the windshields. We also have been given 2 additional signs (4 in all) by the City of PSL, located on the roadside telling our community that this area is cleaned by LIVING FAITH CHURCH. We now have 17 men from the church fellowshiping together and making a difference. This year, all the men of our church are invited to step out of their comfort zone and join us. Together we are truly reaching out to our community while fellowshiping together.

We are Gods Hands and Feet!

Financially Supported Outreach Ministries

Florida-Bahamas Synod/ELCA Mission Support:

Living Faith Church provides 10% of weekly offerings gathered to support the work of the Florida-Bahamas Synod as well as the ELCA churchwide organization. Mission Support provides 80 percent of the resources to enable the ELCA to begin new ministries and accompany existing congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission. These funds also provide the staff and resources for the development of new leaders, partnership with churches around the globe, alleviating poverty, working for justice and peace, and so much more. With our hands, we do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities here in Florida and throughout the world. Living Faith Church provided \$11,530 in Missions Support in 2020.

LAHIA:

Living Faith Church provides 2.5% of weekly offerings gathered to support the Love and Hope in Action (LAHIA) ministry. Founded in 2007, Love and Hope in Action (LAHIA) is a faith-based 501c3 non-profit organization located in Stuart, Florida. Their mission is to reach the hungry, homeless and hurting through their ministry which provides the basic human needs to all those come through our doors. Their goal is to help transition those out of homelessness and provide a path and opportunity for self sufficiency, while meeting their basic physical and spiritual needs. Living Faith Church provided \$3,090 to this critical ministry in 2020.

Hibiscus Children's Center:

Living Faith Church provides 2.5% of weekly offerings gathered to support the Hibiscus Children's Center (HCC) ministry. HCC is a 501c3 non-profit organization which serves children and families throughout the 19th Circuit District – Martin, Indian River, St. Lucie and Okeechobee Counties in Florida. The mission of HCC is to maintain a safe shelter for children who are abused, abandoned and neglected by providing prevention, early intervention, and advocacy in quality residential, assessment and recovery programs. Living Faith Church provided \$3,090 to this critical ministry in 2020.

Miscellaneous Outreach Ministries

Prepared by: Pastor Maryanne Kehlenbach

Many thanks for those who have served as leaders for the following special 2020 Outreach Projects:

Saint Lucie County Fire Department Christmas4Kids:

Thanks to the leadership of Lindsey Demetres, Living Faith Church participated again this year in the SLCFD Christmas4Kids initiative and purchased items for children that could be placed into Christmas stockings for distribution. Christmas4Kids is a non profit organization that provides gifts and Christmas stockings to children in the St Lucie County area who are impoverished and do not have the means to have a typical Christmas experience. Christmas4Kids and Santa deliver gifts and stockings to the children on Christmas morning on St Lucie County fire trucks. Once all the items were sorted and blessed, volunteers gathered to participate in a Christmas Stocking Stuffing Party. Over 280 stockings were filled and then brought to the SLCFD Administration Office for further distribution on Christmas morning. A portion of these stockings were brought to St. Lucie Elementary School in Fort Pierce for distribution to children in need.

Hibiscus Children's Center:

In addition to the monthly financial support (2.5% of weekly offerings), a special collection of food was gathered and blessed in January for the food shelf at the Hibiscus Children's Center Administration Offices for those who are in the Supporting Families in Crisis Program. This program provides assistance to families who seek help in times of an immediate crisis. A Family Advocate is assigned to work with the family seeking assistance and provide a plan to help alleviate the immediate crisis and minimize the chance of it being repeated in the future. Bringing food to a family in crisis alleviates the hunger that many of these families experience.

Living Faith Congregation Council Elections

The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), the officers of the congregation, and not more than 4 nor fewer than 2 members of the congregation.

2020 Council Members

Pastor

Reverend Maryanne Kehlenbach

Officers

Beth Bartholomew	President
Ken Bauer	Vice-President
Bill Parrott	Treasurer
Lisa Smith	Secretary

Members of the Congregation

Jeannie Boyle (served until her death on 04/15/20)
Jason Demetres
Pat Walker (1)

Beth Bartholomew and Pat Walker have completed their term (3 years) on the Congregation Council. Beth has agreed to serve an additional 3 year term. Pat has completed the number of consecutive terms and is not eligible to serve at this time. In addition, 2 years remain on the term served by Jeannie Boyle prior to her death. The Nominations Committee has put forth the following names for election to the Living Faith Church Congregation Council:

<i>Beth Bartholomew</i>	<i>3 Years</i>
<i>Maureen Pinnix</i>	<i>3 Years</i>
<i>Richard Valone</i>	<i>2 Years (completion of Jeannie Boyle's term)</i>

Nominations will also be accepted from the membership at the annual meeting, provided the nominee has agreed to have their name put forth in this election.

FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020

Accounts:

Operating:	\$	79,113.41	
Building BBT:		142,701.07	
Building MIF:		<u>202,912.72</u>	
<i>Total: Building:</i>		345,613.79	
Total: Funds on Deposit:			\$ <u>424,727.20</u>

Classification of Funds on Deposit:

Restricted Funds

Altar Guild	\$	2,000.00	
Books		27.20	
Diaper Aid		12,332.93	
ELCA World Hunger		9.91	
Fellowship		160.00	
Labyrinth		500.00	
Loving Hands		310.91	
Prayer Bears		275.00	
Sunday School		20.00	
Thanksgiving 2018		<u>4,850.59</u>	20,486.54
Capital Appeal			<u>345,613.79</u>
<i>Total: Restricted Funds</i>			<i>364,100.33</i>
<i>Total: Unrestricted Funds</i>			<i>58,626.87</i>

Total Net Assets:			\$ <u>424,727.20</u>
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2020 ACTUALS TO SPENDING PLAN

The following chart provides a high level overview of the 2020 Actuals and the 2020 Spending Plan.

Description	2020 Plan	2020 Actual
Revenues		
Weekly Offerings	\$ 140,800	\$ 127,151
Gifts	\$ 0	\$ 8,980
Misc Revenues	\$ 14,000	\$ 11,564
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 154,800	\$ 147,695
Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)		\$ 18,500
Operating Revenues with PPP COVID19 Assistance		\$ 166,195
Expenditures		
Outreach	\$ 28,960	\$ 18,494
Church Grounds/Storage Facility	\$ 4,296	\$ 5,067
Education/Camp/Conf	\$ 1,617	\$ 1,012
Office	\$ 3,200	\$ 5,825
Salaries	\$ 60,180	\$ 60,180
Benefits/FICA	\$ 34,849	\$ 34,076
Worship	\$ 38,185	\$ 31,755
Insurance	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,391
Total Expenditures	\$ 173,287	\$ 157,800
Operating Funds Coverage	\$ 18,487	\$ 10,105
With PPP Funds		\$ 8,395

2021 SPENDING PLAN

The following chart provides a high level overview the 2020 Actuals and the 2021 Proposed Spending Plan.

Description	2020 Actual	2021 Plan
Revenues		
Weekly Offerings	\$ 127,151	\$ 131,652
Gifts	\$ 8,980	\$ 0
Misc Revenues	\$ 11,564	\$ 8,000
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 147,695	\$ 139,652
Expenditures		
Outreach	\$ 18,494	\$ 19,592
Church Grounds/Storage Facility	\$ 5,067	\$ 5,052
Education/Camp/Conf	\$ 1,012	\$ 722
Office	\$ 5,825	\$ 1,400
Salaries	\$ 60,180	\$ 61,384
Benefits/FICA	\$ 34,076	\$ 37,518
Worship	\$ 31,755	\$ 36,448
Insurance	\$ 1,391	\$ 1,390
Total Expenditures	\$ 157,800	\$ 163,506
Operating Funds Coverage	\$ 10,105	\$ 23,854

Living Faith Church at Tradition

Building Fund Financials

Building Fund Giving as of 12/31/2020	Total
Capital Appeal	\$423,656
Kolschowsky Grant	\$372,771
Total Building Fund Giving as of 12/31/20	\$796,427
Building Fund Expenses as of 01/27/2021	Total
Property Taxes	\$25,790
Attorney	\$4,015
Capital Appeal - Charles Lane	\$15,576
Building God's Way	\$74,199
City of PSL	\$5,413
Land	\$367,847
EDC	\$28,227
Lucido	\$48,995
Walker Construction	\$1,225
Tradition Commercial HOA	\$9,500
Total Expenditures as of 01/27/21	\$580,787
Giving less Expenses	\$215,640
Mortgage Assistance Plan	\$50,000