

GELC, MPLS 2020 Annual Meeting

**Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran  
Church, Minneapolis**

**2019 Annual Report**



**February 9, 2020**

**Senior Pastor Jeff Nehrbass**

## GELC, MPLS 2020 Annual Meeting



**“We love  
because he  
first loved  
us.” 1 JOHN: 4**



### **2020 Vision & 2019 Year-At-A-Glance: (Cindy Nehrbass, Editor)**

So friends, here we are in **2020 AD**, *Anno Domini* (Latin for ‘in the year of our Lord’), another decade begun, another 365 days in the rearview mirror, another year ahead to serve God’s people. And this year, we could honestly say that **20/20 is everything**—with prayerful vision to see the needs to come, to plan goals with hindsight to know what works best, learn from mistakes, successes, and such and such. Yet that 20/20 alone would assume that we, human and all, were solely responsible for the church’s outcomes along its path. Nope, we aren’t... and thank God for that! For all our good intentions, creatively honed gifts, well-meaning drive — we are innately clumsy and flawed in our humanity. **In Christ, we are not alone.** God is the way, the truth and the light. Alleluia! And God is also the vision, the promise, and our hope. Without God’s saving Grace we cannot, will not, survive and succeed in this next year, or decade, or century. **We’ve come this far by faith**, so we must continue to seek what God desires for us, and not what we think is best; we must pray for discernment. If we do that, disguise the limits. God’s Will fulfilled in abundance for our church, community, and the world.

**2019 Highlights:** what an amazing year with hills and valleys galore! Community generosity, as we’ve never seen before: benefactors, grants, special awards, volunteer hours, and so many blessings to give us hope in the times of loss, fear, discord, and despair in our neighborhood and church at large. Milestones in connecting with our community and building bridges with local police and government. People showed up. People in places of community power walked through our doors, started conversations, and listened. People who never reached out before, reached out, some anonymously and others through endless hours of community service. Our youth fulfilled a city grant and connected with the neighborhood in a new way. We helped defuse anger and comfort fear. We literally walked the walk of peace throughout our injured neighborhood and showed that our small church on the corner can be a space for worship, nourishment, education, and most importantly fellowship. We provided a safe and inclusive space for God to work and Christ’s love to heal. We served over **2,500** people and fed over **900** families per month with over a **million pounds** of food this year. We gave away 1250 toys, donated 2,173 school supplies, baptized 6, and shared ministry with 8 mission partners and 47 community volunteers. **Thanks be to God, and all who served!**

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## Meeting Agenda

**Opening Prayer & Devotion:** Senior Pastor Jeff Nehrbass

**Meeting Agenda/Minutes/Year-At-A-Glance:** President Brittany Schiebe

**Senior Pastor's Report:** Pr. Jeff Nehrbass

**Pastor of Community Engagement:** Pastor Barb VanDrasek

**Secretary's Report:** Rochelle Nelson

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Ben Schiebe

**Educational Ministry Report (Confirmation):** Pastor Barb VanDrasek

**Community Life/Violence Prevention Ministries:** Pastor Barb VanDrasek

**Educational Ministry Reports (Sunday School):** Brittany Schiebe

**Special Ministries: GLCW (Pres. Arlene Dohrn/Tr. Amy Knaus)**

**Camden Promise/Camden Kids Reports:** Pastor Jeff Nehrbass

**Treasurer's Report and 2019 & 2020 Budgets:** Council

## GELC, MPLS 2020 Annual Meeting

### Senior Pastor's Report: "Doing Reparative Justice Work"

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen. 2019 has been a remarkable year in the life of Gethsemane! We have witnessed more growth in our ministry footprint, the calling of another pastor to our church, stronger and authentic mission partnership relationships with churches inside and outside of our own denomination, and also a new partnership with local government to address **violence prevention** on the blocks around the church. In 2019 we were able to reap some of the blessings of a decade or more of intentional community engagement and spiritual discernment.

2019 will be the year we remember **calling Pastor Barb VanDrasek** to a one-year term call as our Pastor for Community Engagement. She is a gifted community leader and a kind-hearted person with tremendous gift for ministry. I have been pleased to work with her as a friend and colleague. she has been teaching confirmation, Sunday morning Bible study, visiting the sick, bringing communion to our shut ins and connecting with the ladies groups at many of the fun things that they do during the course of the year!

Our daycare has seen **many changes** throughout 2019. As our daycare works with many families that struggle with the economics of raising children , we are learning that transiency is one of the more challenging growing edges in maintaining the daycare census. We have also had a complete turnover in teachers, which creates its own challenges for continuity and growth. We will continue to be a Parent Aware two-star rated program and will work to get back to four stars in 2021.

In 2019 we received a **\$50,000 grant** from the city of Minneapolis to address violence prevention on our blocks around the church as well as the neighborhoods south and north of us. This resource was given to our nonprofit in an attempt to make a connection between government and faith-based community organizations. As a result, we were able to hold six block parties as well as peace walks with youth leaders who received monthly stipend's well doing the reparative justice work of walking alongside community members and leaders and addressing gun violence and how to grow community. I am so happy for the way our youth leaders rose to meet this challenge as well as the church's growing capacity to see itself as an integral part of our civic life. this is also the first year that I testified in front of the mayor and the Minneapolis city council! Talk about an intimidating group of leaders!

In 2019 we also received news from an **anonymous donor about a half million dollar gift** to the mission of Gethsemane! This gift will be received in \$100,000 amounts by the church each year for five years beginning in January 2020. This remarkable blessing will allow for some financial stability as together we search for new ways to remain sustainable as a congregation.

Let me close by saying how grateful I am to continue to be your pastor in the life of this most wonderful of Christ's communities. Thank you to Minister Beverly as she faithfully calls us into the heart of worship. My prayer for you is that our relationship with Christ and the world around us grows ever deeper as we walk as the Bearers of Christ's self-giving Love. **Peace**

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## Secretary's Report: (Rochelle Nelson)

### Annual Meeting Notes from 1/20/19

35 members are in attendance for the annual meeting.

Meeting called to order at 12:00 pm

**Devotions:** Pastor Jeff Psalm 70

**Pastor Report:** (Found on page 4 of the annual report)

- Miracles took place last year as our boiler went out and donations came pouring in to help us repair it and keep the church and daycare open. We were able to repair the boiler, pay off the roof loan, pay down \$20,000 of the daycare loan and catch up on the 6 months behind that we were in payroll and other bills.
- We now have 4 very strong mission partner organizations: Lord of Life, Mount Calvary, St Philip the Deacon, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepard.
- Held 6 block parties and neighborhood peace walks over the summer.
- Lost the Reverend Willie McAfee in 2018.
- Have found a new partner in our church building with New Mount Calvary.
- We have added to our staff with Dr. Judy Stack, Minister Beverly Tipton Hammond, Pastor Barb VanDrasek
- We have a few things to plan for as a congregation:
- get back to our 3 to 100 movement
- Expand our ministry footprint and push over 1 million pounds of food given away this year. New Ministry partner with NuWay Missionary Baptist, they have asked us to help form their own food shelf as a secondary hub for us.
- Our giving to the church, only made up 60% of the pledges in 2018.
- Daycare goal in 2019 is that we increase enrollment so it can be a better revenue stream for the church.

**Secretary Report:** (Found on page 5-7 of annual report)

- Change the time of the call to order to 12:04 pm not am.
- Motion to approve report by Linda and 2nd by Rose, motion passes

**Various Administrative Ministry Reports:** (Found on page 8-17 of annual report).

- Page 10 change anonymous donations to anonymous and special donations.

## **GELC, MPLS 2020 Annual Meeting**

- Motion to approve treasurers report by Amy, 2nd by John, motion approved.

### **Treasurers Reports:**

- Page 18: Mission Investment Fund Loan
- Statement of the loan and how we paid in 2018
- After the \$20,000 pay down in March we were able to restructure the loan from a payment of \$1000 a month to \$842 per month.
- Page 19: 2018 Year end PNL statement
- Insurance line includes insurance and pension
- Garbage line item needs to be included under utilities in the trash category.
- Salary line note: we paid the Pastor 6 months' salary from 2017 in 2018 which is why it is higher than usual.
- Motion to approve treasures report Jean, 2nd by Rohini, motion approved.

### **Budget 2019**

- Plan for Camden Kids to contribute \$5,000 a month to the budget. They are currently not in a position to do so without increasing enrollment by 7 kids.
- Consider adding a line to cover bus expenses.
- Cindy motions to approve and John 2nd motion passes.

### **Call Committee**

- We must approve to form a call committee to hire another Pastor. Propose having the council act as the call committee to hire a Pastor.
- Linda motions that we form the call committee, Darrell 2nd motion passes.

### **Pledges**

- Brainstorm everything we do in this building as a community.
- Turn in your Pledge card to Ben or Pastor Jeff

### **Ballot**

- Current Council members remain in offices for one more year.
- White Ballot to approve council of Brittany Schiebe, Ben Knaus, Rohinni Dawes, Rochelle Nelson; Michelle motions to approve, John 2nd. Motion passes

**Closed with the Lord's Prayer,**

**Meeting adjourned at 1:12 pm**

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### 2019 Financial Secretary's Report: (Ben Schiebe)

#### Monthly Summary

<u>Month</u>	<u>Contributions</u>	<u>% of Total Contributions</u>
January	\$3,738	10.26%
February	\$1,823	5.00%
March	\$8,268	22.69%
April	\$3,336	9.15%
May	\$2,154	5.91%
June	\$3,051	8.37%
July	\$1,674	4.59%
August	\$1,862	5.11%
September	\$1,399	3.84%
October	\$1,767	4.85%
November	\$4,900	13.45%
December	\$2,469.88	6.78%
	<b>\$36,441.88</b>	

#### Pledge and Contribution Summary

<b>All persons with pledges:</b>		
	Number of persons:	8
	Total pledges	\$12,536
	Contributions toward pledges	\$9,026
	Difference	(\$3,510)
<b>Persons with contributions equal to or greater than their pledge:</b>		
	Number of persons:	3
	Total pledges	\$4,576

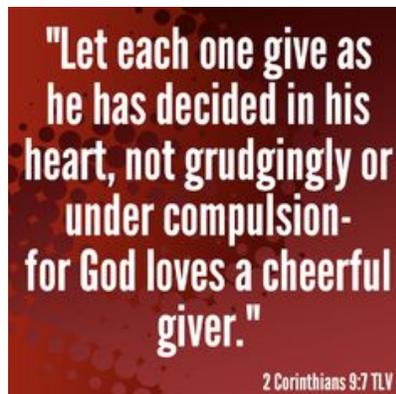
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	Contributions toward pledges	\$5,176
	Difference	\$600
<b>Persons with Contributions less than their pledge:</b>		
	Number of persons:	5
	Total pledges	\$7,960
	Contributions toward pledges	\$3,850
	Difference	(\$4,110)

### Statistical Summary

<u>Annual Dollar Range</u>	<u>Number of Contributors</u>	<u>% of Contributors</u>	<u>Annual Contributions</u>	<u>% of Total Contributions</u>
\$0.01 - \$25.00	1	3.03%	\$15.00	0.05%
\$25.01 - \$100.00	3	9.09%	\$210.00	0.68%
\$100.01 - \$500.00	8	24.24%	\$2,583.60	8.36%
\$500.01 - \$1,000.00	9	27.27%	\$6,705.00	21.71%
\$1,000.01 - \$2,000.00	8	24.24%	\$10,400.28	33.67%
\$2,000.01 - \$3,000.00	3	9.09%	\$7,435.00	24.07%
\$3,000.01 - \$5,000.00	1	3.03%	\$3,540.00	11.46%
> \$5,000.01	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>33</b>		<b>\$30,888.88</b>	

Anonymous Donations: \$5,553.00



# Community Engagement

## Pastor's Report: Pastor Barb VanDrasek

Could it be—8.5 months already? Together with the year I spent with you as a volunteer before being ordained, that's almost two years! In some ways it feels like I've always been here, just because this time with you has blended together in some ways with my years growing up here. In other ways, it feels like I'm just getting started, and there's so much more to learn and to do. But, what a time it's been!

As I've come to know you and experience your kindness and support, I've really come to love and appreciate you as individuals and as a congregation. As I have learned your stories, I am awestruck by things some of you have been through, and yet you remain faithful. I am honored and moved when you allow me into your struggles and joys, ask me to pray with you, look to me as a source of help, or share something just because it's funny or uplifting. I thank you for all of those things.

I love the ways in which you care for each other daily, and especially in times of trouble. I remember so well when I asked about doing an activity after worship, and someone replied that you'd rather just be together over coffee: "After all, we haven't seen each other for a week!" That said everything. I love your faithfulness, in just showing up again and again, and continuing to do what you do to keep the place running. You never falter. Surely the spirit of God is in this place

Worship is at the center of our life as the church, and you make worship a beautiful experience. You pray in earnest, receive the bread and wine and the benediction with open arms; sing joyfully, and share Christ's peace sincerely. That "centering" together makes everything else possible.

My time with our weekday community also has been meaningful to me. As I have come to know their stories, I am filled with wonder about the hardships people can live with and still remain optimistic and cheerful, trusting and praising God. Among them are people who are homeless, dying of illness, lonely, financially desperate, addicted, mentally ill, or carrying heavy burdens of responsibility for others without sufficient resources. I listen, pray with them, speak a good word, and share the good news of the Gospel with them, yet it seems like so little, and never enough. But I am grateful for the privilege of spending time with them, and I am honored when some relate to me as one of their pastors.

Let's make the most of our remaining time together, until my "official" year of call comes to a close. God is leading the people of Gethsemane into the future, so we trust that our calling is to discern just where God is leading, and follow. May God bless you all richly.

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### Educational & Community Ministry Reports: (Pastor Barb)

**Confirmation:** When I was growing up at Gethsemane we had a big cohort of middle-school-age kids, grades 6-9. We had large confirmation classes (large enough so that there was room to hide when Pastor Nelson called on us to recite!). Now, we have people at all stages regarding their faith formation milestones. Some have been baptized, some not (yet); some have been confirmed; some haven't gotten there (yet). Our folks also are from a variety of faith backgrounds. Many have engaged in several traditions (Catholic, Baptist, apostolic, etc.). Still others have had little or no exposure to church or faith formation at all. What this gives us is a wonderful richness of perspectives. Our own faith is strengthened when we have a chance to talk about it with others who have different backgrounds, and perhaps different understandings of God.

This year, I issued an open invitation to anyone, of any age or background, who might wish to prepare for confirmation, or just to join in the conversation, share, and learn. At the moment we have five people in the process, with others occasionally joining in. We talk about life and faith and church, and where God might be in all of it. At the center of our study is Luther's Catechism, and his explanations of the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles Creed. I find the conversations enlightening and often deeply moving. Sharing our stories makes me more convinced than ever that everyone needs a place to bring their questions, connect with others, and explore the mystery of God together. How about you?

### **Standing Against Violence:**

This year we began a new initiative, alongside our regular outreach activities. The City of Minneapolis developed a new Office of Violence Prevention, and designated a fund to support organizations that work to end violence in the community. They take an approach that says the violence in the community is not just a law enforcement issue; it's a public health issue. Living in that kind of stress is detrimental to people's health, especially children.

We received a grant from this fund for July-December. With the grant, we were able to organize a new Violence Prevention Youth Group, and recruit a mentor for them. Wearing t-shirts that said, "Live in Peace," the youth participated in our summer peace walks and block parties. They mowed lawns for neighbors, helped at the Food Shelf and Wednesday community meals and food distributions, met with local officials, helped to host our Thanksgiving Dinner and Toy Store, and did various service projects around the building. Several times they paused to sit around a table with their leaders and reflect on their experiences. Each one of them, when asked, said they would participate in the program again. In December we celebrated their participation with a blessing during worship, and a luncheon reception afterward.

Many of you got to know these young people as they participated in so much of the life of the church. You know some of their families. It was a blessing to have them with us and involved in so many ways. We miss them! The city has approved an even larger fund for 2020, so we hope that we will be able to expand our program to reach even more of our youth.

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### **Community Life/Camden Promise:**

Each week we continue to greet hundreds of our neighbors who come to us for food and fellowship. Our three distributions of perishable food, Saturday produce distribution and food shelf, and Wednesday community meal draw families, retirees, people experiencing homelessness, those living on the economic margins, and households that just need a little relief from food costs to help their budgets. Most are “regulars”, but there are some “first-timers” every week. Together, they are a community within our walls. They give each other rides to & from church, help each other carry out heavy boxes of food, and share advice for navigating the web of community services and resources. When someone is sick or in trouble, they let us know and try to help. If they see that we need help, many step up to help. Most of our guests have Christian backgrounds from one tradition or another. They will often ask for prayer, or just a listening, sympathetic ear.

We have food to give away because of our partnerships with Second Harvest Heartland/Cub and Target. Thanks to other generous friends and partners, we have been able to give out hats and mittens, Thanksgiving meal boxes, Christmas “Baskets of Blessing,” Christmas toys, and a host of other resources.

None of these things could happen without the people who help. We are blessed with great, faithful volunteers from our own congregation, from the neighborhood, and from Living Word Christian Center, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Mount Calvary Lutheran, Lord of Life Lutheran, and New Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist churches, plus groups that occasionally come to help as part of their mission outreach.

### **Sunday School: (unavailable as of initial print date)**

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### **Special Ministry: GLCW Report (Arlene Dohrn, President)**

The GLCW is women of the church. All confirmed women are members of the GLCW. We meet the third Tuesday of each month, September through May. We meet in each other's homes for Bible Study and Fellowship.

**March:** We **collected personal hygiene items**. We gathered 2019 items with the help of our congregation. They were given to th Alexandria House.

**June 11**, we had our **Annual "Eat Out"** for all confirmed women of Gethsemane. We met at Linde's in Osseo. Twenty women attended for an evening of food and fellowship and played a game. Everyone had so much fun and asked to have another eat out.

**\*August**, we **collected school supplies** and donated to neighborhood schools. The supplies went to Bright Waters, Loring and Olson Middle School. With the help from Mount Calvary Church we collected 2,736 items.

**September 24th** was our second EAT OUT.

**November 23rd**, we had our **annual Bazaar** along with the church's Turkey Dinner. We had raffles for one quilt and five more raffle items. We sold 2 quilts plus handmade items and bakery items.

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>**, we had our **Annual Christmas Outing**. Seventeen women attended the play "A 1940's Radio Christmas Carol" at the Anoka Lyric Arts Theater. After the play we gathered for a meal at Billy's Bar and Grille in Anoka for dinner and fellowship.

We purchased and delivered **Poinsettias and Christmas cards to our church's homebound members**. They were very grateful for the plants and our visits. We also donated to Gethsemane Helping Hands Fund, WELCA, plus to our church's roofing fund.

**The quilters**, a small group of six ladies meet once or twice a month to quilt. **We sold 4 quilts, 2 for raffle** at the Bazaar and donated **12 quilts** to Redeemer Lutheran Church Center for Life.

**If anyone is interested in joining our group, please contact one of our officers:**

**President:** Arlene Dohrn 612-521-8583

**Vice President:** Norma Rydholm 763-560-0741

**Secretary:** Dianne Szach 612-521-3295

**Treasurer/Stewardship/Education:** Amy Knaus 612-619-8186

*God Bless,*

*Arlene Dohrn*

## GELC, MPLS 2020 Annual Meeting

### GLCW FINANCIAL REPORT: Amy Knaus, Treasurer

<b>GLCW: 2018 Financial Report – Amy Knaus, Treasurer</b>				
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>		
Circle Donations	\$102.75		12/31/17 Balance	\$2,313.23
Funeral Donations	\$100.00			
Theater Tickets	\$463.00			
Donations	\$50.00			
Quilt Sales	\$40.00			
Bazaar Sales	\$840.20			
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>\$1,595.95</b>			
Funeral Luncheons		\$31.41		
Quilting Supplies		\$30.67		
Theater Tickets		\$462.60		
Poinsettias		\$34.77		
Stamps		\$11.00		
Women of ELCA		\$25.00		
Bazaar		\$154.00		
GLC Roof Fund		\$500.00		
Helping Hands		\$300.00		
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		<b>\$1,549.45</b>		
<b>Current Checking Balance</b>				<b>\$2,142.63</b>
<b>Current Savings Balance</b>				<b>\$722.03</b>

### **Special Ministry: Helping Hands Fund: Year End 2019**

Thank you for your continued support of the Helping Hands Fund. We expressly want to thank the Gethsemane Lutheran Church Women for their generous donations and those who donate to Change for Change on the first Sunday of every month. We also want to thank those who donate through memorials or in honor of a person's birthday or anniversary.

Examples of how your gifts have helped our community in the past year include:

**Housing:** Assisted those who have received late notices or notices to vacate

**Utilities:** Assisted those who were late or received shut off notices from Xcel, Centerpoint Energy, and/or other necessary utilities

**Transportation:** Assisted those in need with gas purchases and bus cards

Anyone in need of assistance through the Helping Hands Fund is required to call Gethsemane Church. The information is received and the person is informed that we will get back to them within 24 hours.

All requests are kept confidential. We do want to stress the Helping Hands Fund is not to be used on a regular basis. Directions to other agencies may be provided if we are unable to assist.

Every penny donated goes to help with a hand up, not a hand out.

The total issued by the Helping Hands Fund in 2019 is \$715.00.

We want to thank you for trusting us with this very important ministry.

*God Bless,*

*Marge Klinger and Tom Meyers*

## Camden Kids Daycare Report:

Pastor Jeff Nehrbass (Fiduciary/HR Specialist)

2019 for Camden Kids has been a **challenging year** of learning how to address the transience of economics, housing, and employment. We have been learning that clientele come to Camden Kids looking for great daycare at affordable prices in a convenient location close to where they live. But we see clientele leave when their county financing, housing rental, and/or domestic situation changes. These changes seem to happen more frequently with the populations we are serving, which in turn makes continuity of programming and the economics of sustainability much more fluid.

That having been said, however, **Camden Kids Learning Center contributed significantly to the budget of Gethsemane in 2020!** The current enrollment is **38** with a goal to move to 60 by the end of 2020. **We will be Parent Aware 2-star center in 2020**, as our staff turnover in 2019 meant that we had to reset and certify with Parent Aware with new employees. **The goal is to work intentionally to become a 4-star center in 2021.**

If any of the members of Gethsemane are aware of any clientele who may have an interest in our daycare, please advocate for their enrollment at Camden Kids. **Together, we can reach our enrollment goals and keep the daycare, church and the ministries to our community open and sustainable.**

