

Treasurer's Report for the year 2020

AGM February 2021

2020 has been a year to remember for all of us. We are all feeling the impact of 11 months of this pandemic and we have all had to change our daily routines and we have all had to find ways to navigate significant restrictions on our ability to connect with each other and to work with each other.

In March we were required to close the doors of our church for regular services, and we were required to close our doors to our tenants who rely on our building for gatherings that are so important to their members. The shock of these changes caused us to wonder how we would navigate this difficult time.

As you read through the various reports for our AGM you will be reminded of how we have walked this unusual and difficult journey together. As we think about this past year it is important that we appreciate each and every one of you, the members of our Congregation, our faith community, and also to consider the many ways that the risen Christ has walked with us as we have found new ways to be the Body of Christ and to share our faith in this difficult time.

In a year that has shaken and challenged all faith communities I am pleased to report that you, the congregation of Hope Lutheran have come forward in fellowship and generosity to ensure that we not only survive but that we flourish during this time when the world needs us more than ever.

We started the year with plans as approved at last year's AGM to replace our roof and to paint the exterior of our building. The roof was installed in early March. With the onset of Covid and the uncertainty that followed Council decided to put off the painting project to give us flexibility in responding to the impact of the rapidly changing circumstances. The painting project and related work on gutters, soffits and fascia is outlined on a sheet that accompanies the proposed 2021 budget titled 2021 Capital projects. The figures are based on current estimates and the property committee is getting ready to ask the proposed contractors to sharpen their pencils.

That same sheet accompanying the Budget provides detail of the year end balances in our Savings and contingency accounts. We have funds available to pay for these improvements and Council plans to press ahead in the spring.

Also accompanying the budget documents is a comparative Balance sheet with figures from 2019 and 2020.

In summary, both from an operational and a financial perspective our little faith community has weathered the storm of 2020 and is ready to meet the ongoing challenges of 2021. It is your strength and generosity as a Congregation that we have to thank for this.

In May of last year, in the early stages of this crisis I wrote a note to all of you in which I referred to the late Irish theologian, poet and philosopher John O'Donohue. In one of his poems he talks about facing difficult times. His wisdom is worth repeating here, at this time as we continue our journey together:

“..... This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter wind passes.

Try, as best you can, not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light

If you remain generous,
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of promise,
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.”

The air is not quite yet kind, but we can see a time when we will arrive on fresh pastures of promise. It is a privilege to serve a faith community that journeys through the bitter wind and that remains generous in the face of the storm.

We have chosen to walk this journey together and the company and ongoing kindness and generosity if each and every one of you is so appreciated.

Thank you