

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

2021

“Life’s greatest happiness is to be convinced we are loved”
Victor Hugo

“What if brokenness has no authority at all over us? What if only love has authority over us?
That’s the essence of the gospel.
James Finley

It is not the critic who counts: not the person who points out how the strong stumbles, or how the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the person who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if they fail, at least fails while daring greatly, so that their place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

In the song “Seasons of Love” from the musical Rent, the chorus sings, five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes, five hundred twenty five thousand moments so dear, five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes, How do you measure? Measure a year? In daylights, sunsets, midnights, cups of coffee, How do you measure a year? How about love? Yes, how about love.

Well 2021 has come and gone. How did you measure your year? Take some time and reflect on the past year. What are your take aways? What will you do differently to make a difference for God, your community, and yourself in 2022?

How did we at CELC measure our year? We are still dealing with the pandemic and all its protocols, the new variant, and fear. I know it is exhausting for all of us, however, we are slowly getting back to activities where we can gather together safely. Be smart, get vaccinated, and wear your mask. This is how we measure a year in love for neighbor. Remember, God has all of His creation covered in mercy, grace, and love. Let us reflect this love as well. In 2021 CELC received, with the help of Alleluia Lutheran Church, and the Grand Canyon Synod, an intern. Intern Dan Weichart began his Lutheran year in March. It has always been a hope of mine that I would have the opportunity to supervise a seminary student someday. God has given us Dan in his journey to becoming a pastor. For both faith communities, Dan is making his mark, gaining experience, trying new things, working on his strengths and growing edges and showing us what kind of pastor he will be. With his internship coming to a close in two months, (where did the time go?) my hope is that we learned from each other and that Dan gained experience and insight in his final stretch to the goal of ordination and service to the Church. Thank you Dan, you made it look easy. My prayer for you and Lisa is to hold on for just a few more months, the best is yet to be.

The biggest surprise this past year was the opportunity to adopt Alleluia and to continue this ministry in the West Valley. God is offering us a challenge. Alleluia cannot survive without help. Will we say yes to an unknown future, full of opportunity and potential, or no based on what we might be asked to do? I believe God is asking us to pray, reflect, and ask questions. The great Sufi Rumi said, “While the mind sees only boundaries, love sees the secret way there.” And “Those who don’t want to change, let

them sleep.” Be mindful-the inspiration you seek is already within you. Be silent and listen. We will be voting on this, so before we ask God for anything, let us thank him for everything.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't say thank you to the best group of dedicated staff and volunteer workers ever. Miloy, your beautiful gift of music fills our souls and connects us with the transcendent. Pastor Jonathan, the caring you model for us through cleaning, maintenance, and your own pastoral duties, inspire me. To our council leadership team Olga, Su, Ann, Kay, Mike, John, Randy, Beth, Connie, and Judith. Thank you for all your time, energy, and gifts given in leading this community during these uncertain times. Love is never easy, just worth it. Thank you. To Ardyce, outreach wouldn't be the same without your indefatigable work. Sharoll and Monica, thank you for the office work you do answering the phone and helping with the financial record keeping. Last but not least, to all of you who volunteer their time and talents to outreach, bible studies, fellowship, preparing IHELP meals, altar guild, choir, quilting, serving pancakes at Grace, and all the myriad of thing that are done in community for the sake of community, I am humbled.

Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes, these were some of the moments that measured our year. There comes a time when nothing is meaningful except surrendering to love. Thank you for your surrendering.

Read the reports, reflect on them, and pray for CELC in the coming new year.

Your Servant in Christ

Pastor Jeff

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LETTER

Blessings,

We have had another challenging year with Covid lurking around. We have had to count on streaming, drive-up communion and trying to minimize exposure at the church. We had to be creative about thinking outside the box.

The only thing that did not change at church is the maintenance. Air conditioners going out, bees and leaks of faucets, toilets leaking and other various projects. We still had food for the Outreach clients, meals for the I-Help program, and the Not Hungry Tonight program.

We adapted to having communion in our seat and our chairs in random order. We missed many parishioners for months on end and were glad that they had been watching the service online.

Weight Watchers have chosen not to come back, which was rent money. Slowly, other programs have started to return. But as of today, that could change with the health concerns of the world. We remain vastly vulnerable.

We have entertained ideas for the future. What is our vision and what we are going to do about it? As you know Christianity is being targeted. How would you like to move forward and pass the message of Christ in the future? Are we going to accept what is going on and keep our doors and hearts closed?

We have had a few committees moving forward. Ann Bruce, Su Erickson and Gale Williams have been working on the constitution, This has been on hold for the time being.

Ann Bruce and I have been attending Zoom meetings with the Synod and Alleluia.

A subcommittee has been formed from CELC council to work on the future with Alleluia, Olga Blanchard, Ann Bruce, John Brown, and Dan Weibert, our intern are on this subcommittee.

A Presbyterian church, 200 years old, is closing its doors back east due to the lack of members.

This is concerning to me. We have opportunities and the ability to spread the Word, Christ so let's be open to the possibilities that are presented in front of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Olga Blanchard

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

The CELC Outreach Ministry through it's Tuesday food distribution program provided over 2108 food boxes during this past year. These boxes provided food for an average of 176 families per month plus more than 125 emergency boxes for members of our community. We have served less families than last year but due to Covid things changed for many families. We continue to do a drive thru and it works very well.

The Outreach program spent over \$18,845 and our total Outreach income was \$24,115. We purchase food on a weekly basis at St. Mary's Food Bank and this averages just over \$370 per week. In addition, we received generous food ad monetary gifts from our congregation, Basha's, Panera, and Goodyear Food Bank, which participates in grocery rescue program with Target, Fry's and Panera Bakeries. In December we received a donation of food plus \$100 in cash from Prime Solutions Group, Inc. that they collected especially for our Outreach Program. They only have 20 employees and they are very generous with their giving.

We received \$5,000 from St. Mary's to buy food or to replace equipment for our Outreach Program tht is needed. We have util June o 2022 to use it.

Monies from Tuesday sales of donated furniture, clothes and household items: The sales from Tuesday raised more than \$4,892. Special thanks to Ardyce Durand for all she does. We did very well from our Tuesday sales considering that we are operating as a drive thru because of Covid. We also benefited from the work of all the wonderful volunteers from our congregation who provided many hours of service to the program. We are very blessed to have all of these marvelous people. That is why this program has been going for over 17 years.

We continue to receive a grade of "A" from our Maricopa County inspections. We also have passed the inspections by St. Mary's.

All our normal programs through our nurse Olga Blanchard stopped in March of 2020. Olga started the breakfast of oatmeal and fruit again by drive thru last September. She also continued to help some of our clients on a personal basis.

Thanks to our generous congregation, we received enough donations to give our clients \$25 gift cards both at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thanks so much for your help. Greatly appreciated...

In December, Prime Solutions Group Inc., adopted one of our families for Christmas and provided gifts for all family members. They did an outstanding job. They are a very generous and giving company and help us out several times a year. This is their fourth year to adopt a family.

The prices at St. Mary's have gone up and we can't always get what we need so that is why we really appreciate the donations from the congregation, especially the cereals, can fruits, vegetables and water.

We truly are a Christian fellowship reaching out to all people so that they might know God's love for them.

In His Service,

Kay Meyers

HEALTH MINISTRY

We started the year off with serving outreach clients with oatmeal. Pruita Eucker, John Blanchard and myself served an average of 14 clients with oatmeal in front of the sanctuary on Tuesday mornings until May.

September, Walgreens supported CELC with a Flu Clinic. We had the most participation ever. The numbers were 33 clients.

October, we began with the oatmeal project. Drive up oatmeal was supported again by Pruita Eucker, Mike and Sherry Hassel, John Blanchard, and myself. Again, we average about 14 clients.

We started collecting personal items in November for the homeless. After they were put together, Pastor Jeff took them downtown to be given to the homeless on the day the pancake breakfast was being served. Barbara Schaffer made hats to be included with the packages.

A damper has been on our ministry because of the Covid restrictions. It has been a chance to work outside the box.

Thank you to all that donate to support Health Ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Olga Blanchard, RN, Parish Nurse.

FELLOWSHIP

2021 continued to be a difficult year for fellowship with the continuation of the pandemic.

We did restart coffee after church in October limiting it to the first Sunday of the month. We re averaging about 20 people who participate.

We were able to celebrate Advent with dinner and music in December. We had 63 members and guests attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Sornsin

QUILTERS

Quilting for Others continues with the focus of making quilts to be donated to families supported by the New Hope Center as well as the homeless through Avondale Food Bank. This past year 147 quilts were distributed. Less time was spent together in the Monday meetings, but many new tops were provided by those who were at home during the pandemic, so production of quilts continue. Additional crafts and projects were created to sell at the fall craft fair. The sale raised approximately \$700 which will be used to purchase batting for the quilt and to resupply other materials needed to make more quilts. The group welcomes anyone interested in the goal, regardless of sewing skills.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Olson

YOUTH GROUP

CELC Youth Group is focused on engaging our teens to help facilitate and build relationships between each other and with our Almighty God, While the teens get to attend fun events like the zoo we also ensure we do God's Work with our Hands.

This year has been challenging with navigating the Covid environment. However, we were able to still enjoy the following events:

CELC Youth Zoo Dy – 5/15/2021

CELC Movie Night – 9/24/2021

CELC 2021 Confirmation Ceremony – 10/31/2021

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Richardson



EVANGELISM

Visitors & New Members – The pandemic has curtailed visitor attendance, but four new member came to us in the March class. Another class is being organized.

Additional Spiritual & Physical Needs – These needs may be increased with Covid. We are actively working to meet them.

Team Membership – Members vary from 3 to 12, depending on need and programs in progress.

Members in Touch – This is our over-all theme to combat isolation (Covid), health and economic setbacks of our members. Seven plans have been started with this idea paramount.

1. Church-wide calling and note-writing to personally connect and share a few minutes that cannot be spent together. The Delta variant began about this time.
2. Easter cards, get-well cards, baptism, graduation, wedding anniversary, and sympathy cards (home-made and donated) re sent to people on the prayer list as well as not on the list. We stay alert to all sources for information on those in difficult or isolated situations. In that sense, all church members are ad hoc members.
3. Contacting ALL members on all parts of the prayer list to offer help and encouragement.
4. A note-writing campaign to welcome all snowbird back and involve them where possible, unless they have an activity in mind.
5. An Advent/Christmas card “sending” to ALL church households (200+) was completed by 12 team members. As the same time another Covid variant (Omicron) appeared. The Advent cards reminded us of our connection with three other churches on our campus plus ours to Alleluia Lutheran Church.
6. Paper directories/online news/aids re offered to keep us in touch in every way members need.
7. The “info” table in the corner of the sanctuary, used to get questions of all kinds answered for members and visitors alike and for use for other church group activities.

This team hopes to facilitate any visits between Alleluia and CELC members that it can to further that inter-church friendship.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Turnen

EDUCATION

No report was submitted.

STEWARDSHIP

No report was submitted.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Structure – Bees were found swarming on the property and followed to a pillar on the north side of Building B. Live extraction was performed by Stung and Sticky Beekeeper. Closure of the beekeeper's opening, stucco and painting were done by AZ Red Canyon Painting.

Signage – Multiple signs were made and placed on Building A, Building B and near the northeast parking lot area. The signs clearly direct and label areas of the campus, so that members and visitors can navigate easily.

Roof, Building A – A probable leak is under investigation due to peeling paint on the north corner of the ceiling in the kitchen.

Roof, Building B – A leak in Classroom A and another leak in the hallway led to requesting a visit by Diversified Roofing and Masters & Sons. Diversified Roof resealed selected pipes and the middle scupper on the south side. Since the roofing repairs, Jonathan cleaned water off the floor of Classroom A, which points to an ongoing issue with the scupper that was repaired. Diversified Roofing has been contacted. Masters & Sons solved the HVAC leak above the hallway.

Lighting – Six parking lot lights were replaced. Building A received four sconces and five security lights. A flood light now brightens the area between Buildings A and B. The lights in two fixtures in the Building B sanctuary were replaced before the lighting project explained below. Red Mountain Lighting installed new LED lights with no ballasts in the Building B sanctuary. The lights should last for 50,000 hours of use, when their luminescence may drop to 70%. The lights also provide more lights at a lower cost. The shorter pole parking lot lights in the sidewalk area were cleaned, as well as the flood lights on the exterior of Building B.

Electrical – The five HVAC units on Building A stopped functioning and a breaker connecting our breaker box to APS power was replaced. Masters & Sons determined the failure and resolved it. The malfunctioning locks on the breaker boxes was refurbished and now close and lock more easily. A lock was also added to complete the dual lock on the Building B exterior breaker box on the southwest corner of the building.

HVAC Units -

Two HVAC units that failed were replaced on Building B. Masters and Sons completed the removal and installation.

Plumbing – In the men's bathroom of Building B, two commode tanks were repaired. New aerators were placed on the faucets of the bathrooms and the nursery. Building B's handicapped men's bathroom stall commode tank was repaired a second time by Estrella Plumbing. Building B's kitchen complete floor drain system, reaching to the grease trap, was cleaned by Estrella Plumbing, Duck's Septic Pump & Install, and Arizona Sewer Jetting. A grease plug was one of the causes of a backup of water, but a belly in the system preventing proper flow is also a cause. Measures were taken to prevent grease collection in the drainage system.

1. Grease, fats and oils now collected in a proper container are delivered to the Avondale Municipal Operations Service Center.

2. Simple Green, recommended for monthly application by Arizona Sewer Jetting, has been used to clean each sink trap and the floor drain. Maintenance has been performing this task.

Dumpsters – Due to occasional scavenging and improper placement of trash, a chain and combination lock were placed on the gate doors.

Fire Hydrant – The southwest corner fire hydrant had a metered line added for water use by the property south of CELC, being used by Archer Western. CELC incurred no costs for the line. About one week after the connection, the same water line's backflow valve began to leak. The City of Goodyear and afterwards Archer Western took measure and were responsible for correcting the leak. Archer Western hired JAZ Backflow Prevention LLC, who affected repairs, but the leak continued. JAZ then proposed more work to repair the affected backflow valve at a cost to CELC. Metro Fire was called to address this continued leak and provided a temporary fix that should hold, until the city's water pipe project on Litchfield Road is completed, and the affected valve and fire hydrant are vacated. Metro Fire did not charge CELC for their services.

Landscaping – RV Landscaping addressed concerns about their work schedule and some deficiencies in caring for the property. Some improvements in their service occurred when the temperatures became cool. This will be monitored.

Parking Lot – Some of the black top was repaired in the handicapped area near Building B.

Doorbells – Wireless doorbells were installed in Building A's office and Building B's kitchen.

Inventory – An annual inventory of the garage was submitted in November.

Alleluia Lutheran Church – Buildings and Grounds submitted a one-page, 5-year plan for Alleluia should CELC and Alleluia merge, consolidate or agree to another form of union.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Heibel

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Open Doors, Open Hearts. We celebrate that CELC doors were open to all for worship in 2021. Due to the continuance of the pandemic, social distancing and masks remained a part of our practice in the worship setting as well as other parts of our lives. I am thankful that we were able to come together to worship and share in God's word each week.

CELC entered a formal arrangement with Alleluia Lutheran Church to call an intern. Intern Dan Weichart began a year-long internship in mid-March and has been instrumental in sharing God's word with members of both congregations.

Jim Erickson, aka resident IT/AV guy, continued to tweak the AV/computer equipment and provided live streaming of our worship services. He assembled a team to assist in the booth each month. A big thank you to all who give of their time in this endeavor. A big thank you to Ruben

Salgado for his leadership in the AV booth each week and teaching the team so much about the audio system.

I met with Miloy Canete, Pastor Jeff and Intern Dan in June to plan the worship schedule for the fall. In September and October, messages were shared by my ministry leaders at the beginning of worship, inviting the congregation to become involved in CELC ministry opportunities. The

Adoration Choir returned in November. An All-Church Thanksgiving service and pie social was held November 17 to give praise and thanks to God.

Thank you to all members of the Worship ministry team who participated in our worship and music activities throughout the year. Our weekly worship service is more meaningful because of all you do! Members of the Altar Guild, led by Marian See, not only cared for the altar and communion element each week, but took on the responsibility of Greeters over the past year. Sharoll Blodgett has scheduled readers for each service, Carole Helland maintained our altar flower displays, including Easter and Christmas displays, and Judy Wandler changed out the banner with the change of the church seasons. Miloy Canete planned the worship and music for each service and guided the musicians. Thank you, Pastor Jeff and Intern Dan, for sharing the Gospel and God's message of LOVE with us.

Respectfully submitted

Su Erickson