



LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2021 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
JANUARY 31, 2021

*A Growing Family of Faith*

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Living Word Lutheran Church

Congregational Meeting

1/31/2021

- I. Opening Prayer- Pastor Michael
- II. Establish Quorum- 25 % of voting membership
- III. Minutes of Congregational Meeting 9/9/2020
- IV. Items to be added to agenda
- V. Review of Annual Reports
- VI. Election of Officers
  - a. Approval of President for term ending January 2021
  - b. Election of Vice President and Mission Coordinator (2-year term)
- VII. Constitution/Bylaws revisions
- VIII. 2021 Budget Proposal
- IX. New Business
  - a. Recommendation of Church Council to affiliate with AFLC (Association of Free Lutheran Congregations)
  - b. Pastoral Leadership Transitional Year
- X. Closing Prayer

## Living Word Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting 9/9/2020

Opening prayer: Pastor Michael

22 Voting members present, Quorum was established.

Sharon Peterson read the Minutes from the last Congregational Meeting (1/26/20). Brian Burgett made a motion to approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Todd Ormsby. Minutes approved.

Review of proposed changes to article 2.3 of Living Word Constitution.

Currently reads:

2.3 LWLC shall be affiliated with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). This affiliation may be terminated by a sixty percent (60%) vote of voting members who have been active for at least 6 months or more, at a legally called and conducted special meeting.

Proposed change:

2.3 LWLC may choose to affiliate with one or more associations by a vote of 60% of the voting membership or maintain an independent status.

2.3.1 Association with LCMC is hereby terminated.

Ken Bourlier (President) lead us in why we are having this meeting:

1) decide to leave LCMC 2) to determine to go with another affiliation

In December, 2019,-we received a letter from LCMC suspending our membership in their association of congregations due to their disagreement with our selection of our Contract Pastor. After full investigation of the complaint, council determined that the charges were false. We are here tonight to vote what is the best interest of LWLC. President Ken Bourlier stated he believes it is to leave LCMC.

Caroline Prather asked what other affiliations are there. Eileen Pressler said that there are 40 and there are plans to investigate what would be a good fit. One that is being looked at is AFLC. (Association of Free Lutheran Congregations).

Pat Toth asked if the vote tonight is to terminate LCMC and later look at affiliation. Ken said Yes.

Vernon Parsons asked what is the benefit of being affiliated vs being independent. It was mentioned that the support you get from an affiliation can be very helpful.

Rosie Freeman mentioned that we are currently removed from the LCMC website. What would happen if we voted to stay with LCMC? According to the letter we received, unless we remove our Pastor, LCMC would permanently remove us from their rooster at the October Annual Gathering. Pastor said if that happened, he will support us until we could get a replacement pastor.

Motion was made to leave LCMC by Pat Toth, Todd Ormsby 2<sup>nd</sup>. Paper ballots were passed out. The vote is either Yes to leave or No to stay.

Ballots were collected and counted. Results 22 YES.

Meeting was closed in prayer by Pastor.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Peterson, Secretary.

### Pastor's Report to the Congregation for 2020

One of my favorite contemporary hymns is "Borning Cry":

*I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
To see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child,  
With a faith to suit you well;  
In a blaze of light you wandered off  
To find where demons dwell.*

*When you heard the wonder of the Word  
I was there to cheer you on;  
You were raised to praise the living God,  
To whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time  
And you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
From dusk 'till rising sun.*

*In the middle ages of your life,  
Not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,...*

We usually hear and let our spirits be lifted by those words as they apply to our individual lives. But let us hear those words now as they also rightfully apply to our church.

Although most of us are "newcomers", Living Word Lutheran Church (LW) was and is still a "mission start" church, born only a few years ago. LW has been a child in many ways, wandering here and there trying to find our way, even in early conflicts, as the song implies. But, in the midst of it all God assures us "I was there...". The point is God has been and still is with us, as we continue to grow and seek our future together even in the midst of the 2020 challenges ... *"I'll be there to guide you through the night,..."*.

2021 will be another year of transition and growth for us, again, as the song says *"You were raised to praise the living God, To whom you now belong"*. and YES, God promises *"I'll be there...."*. It's no secret that after 40+ years of ministry, I am looking forward to retirement, but I also won't leave LW until we are all agreed there is a plan for the future and hopefully a new (and younger!) pastor to grow LW to and through its next stages.... *"If you find someone to share your time, and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your verses rhyme, From dusk 'till rising sun...."*

All the “pastoral details” are presented in Eileen Pressler’s always comprehensive report, but one thing is sure: we not only survived 2020, but we also “grew through it”. I accepted the call to this church years ago because I was convinced, and still am, that the contribution LW makes to the faith community of Kingman is essential and God-willed.

So, as we continue to *hear the wonder of God’s Word*, God WILL *be there to cheer us on*. Let’s rejoice and be thankful that God has kept us together this past year and look forward to all the surprises and new growth He has in mind for us in 2021.

*Pastor Michael*

## **President's Annual Report\*\***

**\*\*Note:** Ken Bourlier served Living Word as Council President in 2020 until his illness in December made Council members realize he would not be able to complete his full 2-year term. This report for 2020 was created using the format Ken used for his previous reports.

We honor the love and dedication Ken devoted in his leadership of Living Word Congregation. In late December, as outlined in the Living Word Constitution, Council members appointed Robert Pressler as acting President until the next Congregation Annual meeting to be held in January 2021.

Some events from 2020:

- January - Men of the church worked together to permanently install the large cross that was donated, and refresh and update the outside of our church.
- February, March - Due to COVID, it was necessary to institute different styles of worship and cancel several events during the year.
- July – We renewed our lease for another year and continued our contract with C&S cleaning service to clean our worship area twice a month.
- July - Council approved creation of a Media Team to investigate and purchase appropriate equipment to continue Livestreaming our worship services to Facebook.
- August - Pastor Michael's contract was renewed for another year.
- September - Special Congregation Meeting held 9/9/2020 and congregation approved discontinuing affiliation with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. (LCMC)
- September - Special Band of Brother's Men's Retreat was held.
- October - our Annual Yard Sale was held.
- November - a special committee of Congregation members was formed to investigate options for affiliation with different Lutheran Associations.

Thanks to all Council and congregation members for dedication in attendance, contributions of time and talent this past year.

Ken Bourlier,  
President

## **Vice-President's Annual Report**

In addition to serving as Vice President, in March Council appointed me as acting Treasurer.

This “temporary” position took up most of my time in 2020. Some revisions were made to the accounting process of Living Word.

- Instead of a manual process, accounts were loaded onto a Quicken database for easier monitoring and reporting.
- Accounts that had monthly billing were set up for automatic payment each month by BillPay.
- Utilities (Gas, Electric, Water) were changed to budget plan which established consistent monthly payments amounts.
- Quarterly Mission payments to our 4 local missions were set up on BillPay.
- In July, we changed to monthly rent payments instead of paying the full amount once a year.

Due to continued COVID restrictions and the need to Livestream worship to our Facebook page, we established a Media Fund to purchase updated equipment. This fund was funded through donations from congregation members and did not have to come from general operating funds.

Internet service through Frontier continued to be inconsistent so Council opted to change to Suddenlink for phone and internet. This change was finalized in November.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Pressler  
Vice-President



## **Pastoral Assistant Annual Report for 2020**

### **2020 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE SUMMARY**

- 52 Sunday Services held
  - Unable to report average attendance per Sunday this year due to COVID.
- Due to COVID, we instituted Livestreaming of our worship services to our Facebook page March.
- In person worship was discontinued in April due to the Arizona Governor's Stay at Home Order
  - Virtual worship was continued with the assistance of a small team of members to provide technical assistance.
  - Parking Lot Communion was offered using individual prefilled Communion Cups.

### **2020 SPECIAL SERVICES, MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- Annual Congregational meeting held January 26, 2020
- Special Congregational meeting held September 9, 2020
- Easter Season
  - Ash Wednesday
    - Imposition of Ashes and Communion on Ash Wednesday 2/26/20
    - Communion served on Ash Wednesday
  - Food fellowship was discontinued
  - Lenten Mid-week and small group devotions on topics from "To Seek and To Save" led by Pastor Michael
  - Palm Sunday virtual worship
  - No Maundy Thursday worship held
  - Virtual Good Friday Services
  - Easter Sunday virtual worship
    - Easter Breakfast plans cancelled
- In June we began to slowly open our worship to persons who were comfortable attending in person
  - Livestreaming to Facebook Page continued
  - Masks and hand sanitizer encouraged for those attending in person
- 6/21/2020 - Marie LeRoy Celebration of Life held after worship
- Summer Sermon Series on The Lord's Prayer by Pastor Michael
- Christmas in July and Easter in August special worship services held
- 3 Baptisms in March
- 7 New Members received in January, 9 New Members received in August
- Thanksgiving Dinner held after worship on November 22, 2020
- Christmas Season
  - 3 Advent Mid-week small group devotions led by Pastor Michael
  - Christmas Eve Worship
    - Carols, Candlelight and Communion at 6:30 PM

Despite COVID challenges this year, which were many, Living Word Lutheran Church continued to worship together each week. Together we experienced formats of worship we had not previously considered! As a "growing family of faith", we added new members through Baptism! We eagerly look forward to 2021 worshipping together and serving our Lord!

Respectfully submitted,  
Eileen Pressler,  
Pastoral Assistant

## **2020 Annual Report – Mission Coordinator**

**January-**

**February-**

**March-** St. Patrick's Day dinner and 50/50 raffle cancelled due to COVID concerns.

**April-** Thrivent Action Team project, Easter Baskets for Pregnancy Center

**May-** Living Word members participated in local National Day of Prayer.

**June/July/August-** SALT project Collection of change and other donations collected. Money collected donated to Well Child International. All other project cancelled due to continued COVID concerns.

**September-**

**October-** Supported Living Word Annual Yard Sale. \$2,347.73 donated to Living Word General Fund. Continued sponsorship for AAPC Annual benefit tea.

**November-** Thrivent Action Team project supported expenses for 9 food baskets for families in need. Thrivent funds purchased meat; congregation members provided all side dishes.

**December-** Thrivent Action Team project supported expenses for 9 Christmas food baskets for families in need. Funds remaining from Thrivent Thanksgiving project were adequate to purchase all items needed for baskets.

### **Other Mission Projects**

Throughout the year we continually supported our 4 local missions. Worked closely with WOW to coordinate "Meals on Wheels" Team to provide meals as needed to congregation families and Pastoral Care Team to assist with spiritual visits and home communion as needed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosie Freeman, Mission Coordinator

## **Election of Officers**

1-Congregational Approval of Council Appointment of Bob Pressler as President for term that expires 12/2021

2- Nominations for terms expiring 12/2022:

- Vice President – Rosie Freeman
- Mission Coordinator – Alice Jensen