

Annual Report 2021

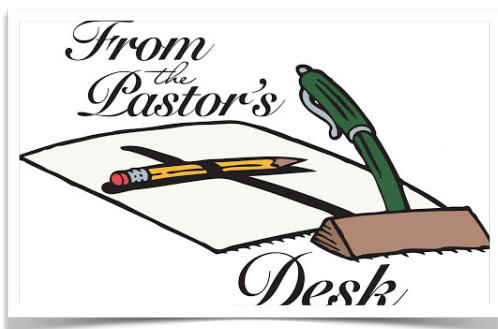
NORTHERN LAKES COMMUNITY CHURCH, PC(USA)
5444 Herkner Rd. Traverse City Michigan 49685 231 935 4556

Love God ❤️ Love Neighbors ❤️ Love Ourselves



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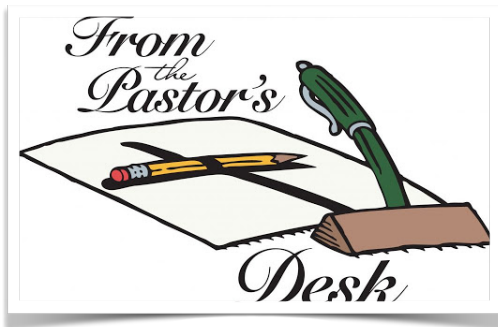


Pastor's Annual Report (2021)
How grateful it has been for the year of
2021 at NLCC!

Even though the Covid pandemic has been still affecting us and slowing us down in many parts of our church's works of ministry and mission, I saw your gratitude-and-love-sharing attitudes and actions not simply for the church but for many other people in our larger community. They are all clearly signs of God's gracious, overflowing blessings that inspired and encouraged us more to love God, our neighbors and ourselves.

There are so many people that I'm deeply thankful for their good works of ministry and mission, but first of all, I'm so grateful for our volunteer administrators—Pat Thompson, Lori Thompson, and Penny Schmidt—who spent hours and hours each week to make sure all the office works ran smoothly and accordingly and well communicated with the congregation in a timely manner. Technology ministry volunteers, Steve Kellman, Rachel Justin and Micah Justin, also played, on a weekly basis, such an important role in our website updates, Youtube live-streaming, and audio/video systems at our church. Especially, Neal Horning and Ron Messner worked so tirelessly on all the areas of our church properties to make sure everything worked well and properly. With all their dedicated time and faithful work, our church was able to carry out all our important, timely works of ministry and mission for this past year.

Not to mention, our Session (Ron Messner, Gary Baillod, Sue Fink, Julie Burton, Joe Schmidt, and Derrel Kent) and the Deacons' Board (Sue Messner, Bev Adams, Kathy and Doug Gauthier, Melynn Jenner, Jan Baillod) not just dedicated their time, talents and resources to all the works of our church's



ministry and mission, but they all went above and beyond what they were normally responsible for—being more creative and innovative about all the church's works, i.e., continuously involving and volunteering at the Safe Harbor Shelter during the winter, holding wonderful, community-inviting "Summer Outdoor Services," offering a "Yoga Class" during the summer and meeting new people within the local community, growing a "Tuesday Gardening Group," having safe "Potluck Fellowships" since the past summer, supporting and building a new relationship with "All Stars Driving Ed. Class" during the summer, hosting "All Church Workday" in the fall to clean up the basement to be ready for future community outreach ministry opportunities, introducing a new "Small Group Ministry," and expanding the "Thanksgiving Basket" mission project.

As we're entering a new and exciting season of ministry and mission in 2022, I'm ever more grateful for the willingness and eagerness of our entire congregation of NLCC that will continue to build up the church of Jesus Christ for the sake of our local community and beyond. May God continue to bless all our missional efforts of sharing the love of God with one another and everyone beyond our church community!

With a deep gratitude and love, Pastor Sam

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Huntington".



Building & Grounds

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REORT FOR 2021

This year was a busy one for the Building and Grounds Team. Work continued in all of the gardens and the berms. You may have noticed that the weeds are missing from the grass near the church and the grass was mowed weekly.

In the Spring a team of four men and five women were able to raise the cross at its new location near the backyard. Cedar fencing greets us as we turn into the driveway and helps define the memorial garden in the back of the church.

Outside painting has begun and will resume again in 2022.

When you go inside you will notice that the sanctuary and narthex have been cleaned. Windows are washed. Every surface has been dusted. Broken tiles have been replaced and the floors were washed, stripped and waxed. If you go down the basement you won't recognize it because a dedicated group of hard workers has cleaned, straightened and organized it.

The most remarkable aspect of the building and grounds transformation is the number of people who participated. We had over 30 volunteers work on the various building and grounds projects. That amounts to over two thirds of our membership.

Projects for 2022 include, window repair, exterior painting, carpeting to define the pulpit area, and continued improvements on our live streaming technology.

Ron Messner & Neal Horning

Christian Education 2021 Recap:



Small Groups:

- We started up small groups as a way to encourage connections and a feeling of community within our church and also to grow in our faith. The first “assignment” that we tackled was John Eldredge’s Book EPIC. Each group read the book and watched DVD’s and explored questions that JIII Justin created by chapter for

us. At the end of 2021 we had four small groups meeting with a total of over 32 people participating!

Children’s Education:

- After meeting with our kids via zoom approximately twice per month in 2020. For 2021, the Christian Ed team spent considerable time and energy both talking with all the stakeholders and running a youth fellowship early in 2021. In the fall we have begun meeting again with our children one on one on Sunday mornings when present (Melynn Jenner, thank you!).

Confirmation:

- Amy Jun was confirmed in the spring. Sue Messner did a fantastic job mentoring Amy during this period. Amy’s confirmation testimonial was inspirational to us all.

Young Adult Group:

- Spring of 2021 we began a young adult group; meeting about once per month. Cook outs, bowling, pontoon rides along with a devotion has been the focus thus far. Julie and Jeff Burton are leading this

Blessings,
Julie



We would like to thank all of those volunteers who made our church look like a well maintained and inviting place to worship.

The cleaning Team

Megan Woolcott & Josh Kent

The cleaning team started sanitizing the building in October.

Josh does the floors each week and Megan cleans and sanitizes the surfaces such as the chairs after worship on Sunday. At the end of the week she then does a deep clean of bathrooms, kitchen and surfaces.



2021 REPORT FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION

CLERK'S REPORT 2021

As I reflect on my three years of tenure as Clerk of Session, I am very thankful for the wonderful people in our in our congregation and at the Presbytery of Mackinac. When I assumed the responsibilities of

clerk we didn't have a pastor or even a full time moderator for session. The generous help and guidance from Presbytery was invaluable. Our congregation stepped up and volunteered for all kinds of tasks and our little church was able to minister to our members and the community.

2021 began with a clear vision and a pastor filled with determination and ideas that will lead our church forward. NLCC is spiritually strong and has a Session and Board of Deacons dedicated to enhancing our ministry to our members and the community. We will have an even better 2021!

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your clerk.

Ron Messner



Staying Connected

Notes to the congregation, Zoom, Facebook, Twitter, news media, tv, radio, Instagram & website have all been used in communicating with and for the congregation of events, plus the annual report each year.

Still trying to improve our You Tube Streaming

Weekly News Blast and monthly newsletter

to the congregation

Respectively submitted by

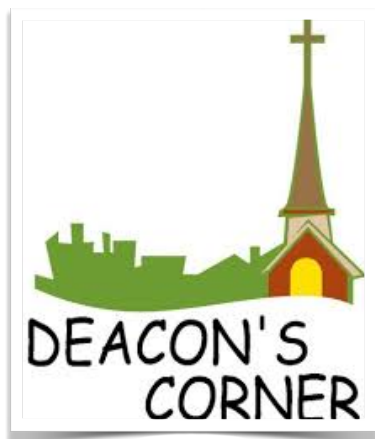
Pat Thompson, Communications

Team: Penny Schmidt, Lori Thompson, Steve Kellman

Administrative Staff

Lori, Pat Thompson & Penny Schmidt

Deacon Report 2021



From the Book of Order, “the ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those

burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress”.

During this second extraordinary year of COVID-19, the deacons have carried out their ministry at NLCC in many ways. Here are some examples of serving during 2021:

- 1. Sending cards of “get well”, “sympathy”, and “thinking of you” to members and friends of our congregation.**
- 2. Returning pop cans to obtain cash for the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund (collected \$83.20 as of Nov. 29, 2021 for the year of 2021).**
- 3. Supplying 11 Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets to needy community members.**
- 4. Calling members (a.k.a. – “sheep”) on a regular basis.**
- 5. Delivering meals to members recovering from surgery / illness (Foodie Fellowship).**
- 6. Maintaining Pray Chain.**
- 7. Sponsored potlucks – the last Sunday in August and the last Sunday in November.**
- 8. Assisted with “Love Your Neighbors Program” through spring 2021.**
- 9. Sent Special Thank Yous for the many acts of service by dedicated members and friends of the church family**

Finance Elder Joe Schmidt & Gary Baillod

2021 was another challenging year. It began with an expected \$25,000 shortfall budgeted due to covid and a discontinued rental income from Heritage Baptist church after August. Fortunately, we received over \$16,000 in PPP monies and received income from the Allstar Driving school to make up much of that deficit. The PPP loan has been forgiven and Allstar may start up again with us in the spring/summer.



Our mortgage balance has been reduced over half from its original \$675,000, with approximately 7.5 years remaining on the loan. In November, the interest rate was changed to 3.675% from 4.21% resulting in a reduction of the mortgage payment by \$359. This is good for 3 more years before the next adjustment. Our interest expense per month will now be below \$1000. This is our second largest expense which has been reduced over \$200,000 in my 6 years as finance elder. Thank you for giving to the Lord. We have seen His gracious hand to help us in so many ways. He is faithful!

Future;

“All Star Driving wants to return to the facility at NLCC before the summer session and perhaps the remainder of 2022. A new rental agreement will be drafted for 2022. The finance team has requested a reduction in the monthly payment for 2022. It is anticipated that it will be granted. No revenue for government programs or land sales are anticipated for 2022.”

The tithes and offerings for 2021 general fund are on par and about the same as last year. We have many members who have donated their time and talents to the missions and expenses of the church. A large part of our gifts is not recorded, this includes supplies, materials, and repairs. Most of these gifts remain anonymous. If all these gifts were recorded, the annual financial report would be considerably different.

God Bless all of you for your gifts.



Mission & Vision Report 2021 Love. Grow. Serve.

Love Your Neighbors Project:

- In May of 2020 our church started an outdoor food and paper goods pantry for those in need from the pandemic. We continued this mission project thru the end of spring 2021. We felt we mostly helped folks from the neighborhood across the street, for which we were thankful for the opportunity to do this. Going forward we will support the Redeemer Lutheran Food Bank on a quarterly basis.

Safe Harbor 2021:

- NLCC supported Safe Harbor mission for a half week in February. Even though folks had COVID concerns our half week went well, as we helped serve over 150 homeless guests during that time.
- NLCC also supported Safe Harbor by participating in monthly steering committee meetings, helping with special projects and through participation in training for Safe Harbor.

Thanksgiving Dinners:

- Our Deacons coordinated 11 Thanksgiving meals for folks in need in our community. This effort is a very positive project that is enthusiastically supported by our church members.

Generations Ahead Christmas Family:

- Our church family is supporting a new very young family of 3 (including a 6 month old boy named Maverick) by purchasing items on their wish Christmas list. Our team wrapped these gifts and tucked in notes of encouragement.
- Blessings
- Julie





Jill Justin

Like much of 2021, music at NLCC has had its challenges and setbacks in some ways, yet we have moved forward in other ways, and have lots to be thankful for. Covid limited face-to-face meetings, causing us to worship virtually, and then in small groups. Live streaming indoors was a real challenge this year: considerable funds, time, and imagination have been spent on making this happen for our church. Fortunately for everyone involved, I had only a very small role in live-streaming, so I can't report at length exactly what went into the process. It was wonderful to be outdoors in the summertime, so that more of us could be together again.

During the summer, we worshipped outdoors, with Sanjay and I leading the congregation with two guitars, and re-used the songbooks created the year before. This worked on practical and financial levels, and hopefully the congregation was also satisfied musically and spiritually, as well (we did not hear otherwise). Sound systems outdoors are complicated -- we are thankful for people who are willing to help set up and tear down each week. Despite complications, it felt so good to be together again, and to feel God's Spirit moving both around us out of doors and in our hearts, that I continue to believe that it is well worth any inconvenience.

Several changes occurred as autumn approached: a new keyboard was donated to our church, as connections in the old keyboard would not interface well with the live-streaming equipment. Shortly afterward, Sanjay announced that he planned to step down from leading music at our church. Since then, we have worked and all but exhausted connections that might lead us to a replacement for Sanjay; the only thing we have not done is posted a local advertisement. One year ago, we tried that, with significant costs and disappointing results. Currently, Pastor Sam is leading worship vocally with Jill on Sunday mornings. Members who have spoken to me about this have been very positive: they appreciate the quality of Sam's voice. However, Sam has indicated that this places a notable burden on him for Sunday mornings, and he would prefer that we still look to hire a Worship Leader to replace Sanjay. We will continue our search in that regard.

As the end of 2021 approaches, we are trying to reach out in creative ways to energize our church and to draw in existing and new members, God willing and to His glory. I have been organizing small group singing in parts (one piece at Thanksgiving, and two during Advent), and we are presently planning our Christmas Eve service, which is designed to involve various members of our church in more active ways.

Looking to the year ahead, we wish to accomplish the following:

- to seek out and find a Worship Leader to replace Sanjay
- to continue to find ways to musically involve members of our church
- to continue to improve the quality of music at NLCC
- to work prayerfully and creatively to lift Jesus' Name and bring glory to Him in our worship

Jill Justin



Office Administrative

Lori, Pat & Penny all volunteer one day a week at the church. Saving the church \$3000 in administrative help. The office is open on Tuesday from 10-1 and on Thursdays from 8:30-noon.

Tasks are the following:

- Notes each week
- Mailing the notes to those that don't

have technology.

- Notifying Elders of inspections
- Bulletins
- Assisting teams

- Helping Pastor Sam when
- Mailings
- Correspondence
- Soothing Ruffled Feathers
- All financials
- Annual report
- Payroll, Taxes & Bills
- Ordering curriculum for two classes
- Filing
- Attendance
- Reminders each week
- Calendars on website
- Building Rental
- Handling whatever 🙄
- Ordering office supplies
- Making appointments
- Annual Reports



Personnel

Derrel Kent, Elder

Personnel Elder

The Personnel Ministry team has worked on a few issues over the past year. We have successfully moved worship team members to W-2 Employees as recommended by the Presbytery . We are also in the process of working with the Worship Ministry team in hiring a worship singer/musician to replace Sanjay.

We have also worked with Pastor Sam and the Finance Ministry team on his terms of call for congregation approval.

The nominating committee is the responsibility of the Personnel Ministry team and it has successfully proposed a slate of nominees for congregation approval.

The Communications Ministry team has been focused on the online church service production. New video equipment was purchased with the help of a private donor to enhance the ability to do online production. Pat and Lori Thompson have continued to do a great job in the office to put out relevant information to the congregation via email and through social media. Thanks so much for all they do.

**Respectfully submitted,
Derrel Kent**



Getting Back to the ❤️ of Worship

Worship Ministry Team Annual Report

Members: Sue Fink and Julie Burton cochairs. Beverly Adams, Sue Messner, Jill Justin, and Pastor Sam Jun.

A dedicated group of worship coordinator makes sure that our worship services run smoothly and attendance is recorded. The group is coordinated by Beverly Adams, who has also recruited and trained new members as needed. Preparation of communion and securing elders or deacons to serve communion is arranged by Sue Fink. Greeters at each service are coordinated by Sue Messner assisted by Doug Gauthier. Seasonal decorations and colors on the cross are arranged by Sue Messner and Sue Fink..

Much of the worship ministry team meetings have centered on making adaptations to our worship service as required by the COVID pandemic and also evaluating current recommendations and bringing back past practices. At a meeting this fall we discussed changes that would lead to great congregation participation in our worship services. Outcomes of that discussion included using responsive readings for the call to worship and having a liturgist lead the prayers of confession and read the scriptures.

The resignation of Sanjay Woolcott has left our music director, Jill Justin handling the music on her own with assistance of Pastor Sam's voice. While we have enjoyed their music it keeps our pastor engaged in practices when he might wish to be attending other matters. We have empowered Jill to talk with musicians she knows about our interest in hiring another musician but this has been on an informal basis. We will need to work with the personnel ministry team on formulating a job description in the coming year.

We have identified two equipment needs that will also need to be addressed in the coming year. The software used to make the slides we project during the worship service is very old and needs to be updated. This will require a new copy of ProPresenter. We also need to replace the microphone being used by the liturgist and others during the service.

Respectfully Submitted, Sue V Fink

