



SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS

LUTHERAN CHURCH – PARK CITY, UTAH

Semi Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda May 8, 2022 – following worship service

1. Welcome & Call to Order Dave Vecchi
2. Opening Prayer..... Pastor Steve Leiser
3. Notation of Quorum..... Ann Hoffman
4. Opening Remarks and Financial..... Dave Vecchi
5. Church Council Slate of Officers (page 9)..... Ann Hoffman
6. Property Report Dave Vecchi
7. Worship and Music Update Jenny Leiser
8. Reconciling in Christ update Ann Hoffman
9. Closing Remarks and Prayer Pastor Steve Leiser

Thank you for Your Continued Support and Kindness!

Revised on 5/6/22



**Shepherd of the Mountains
Lutheran Church of Park City
Annual Report to the Congregation
Sunday, May 8, 2022**

Pastor's Report to the Congregation

Dear friends and members of Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church:

Christ's mission at Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church grows year after year. We are clearly called to be actively engaged in our communities and with what is set before us. We do so in the reality that God has blessed us with faith filled with hope and love. To be sure we are blessed with an attitude of generosity.

As we go forth in mission, I am reminded of what Paul shared in his letter to the Philippians:

I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6

My friends it is such good news that God in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit is at work here at Shepherd of the Mountains! It is a great blessing to be in Christ's ministry with you! A little over fourteen years ago God opened a door that allowed me to join with you in Christ's mission. By your invitation we have shared celebrations and burdens. And although it may at times seem a burden, we can celebrate that God closes doors so that new opportunities for ministry will arise. Yes, we can praise God for closed doors.

A door is closing. After much prayer and reflection, it is clear that my call as pastor with Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church is nearing completion. So with all humility and with a sense of comfort, as of June 19th, I will enter into a time of transition. In doing so I will no longer serve with you as pastor. I will no longer be available for pastoral duties or concerns.

I certainly will miss you all. It has been an honor to share life with you. Thank you for blessing me with loving, caring relationships centered in Jesus Christ. Thank you for encouraging me to grow as pastor even while you have so graciously forgiven my many foibles and mistakes. From my heart, know that you are a wonderful people who make a positive contribution to our many communities. I will always cherish the time we have spent together. I will always cherish growing in faith with you.

The Good News is Jesus Christ! In Christ we are called forward and towards new horizons filled with light and love. My future, as is your future, is in God's hands. We will both pass through doors that God will continually open. Bless the Lord!

Christ's Peace,

Pastor Steve Leiser





Council Report

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church, Council Report 4/19/22

Dear Friends in Christ,

What a year it has been! As my term on church council comes to a close, it's impossible not to reflect on world events which have challenged us deeply at SOM in unprecedented ways. And yet, in 2022, we continue to remain firmly rooted in our Christian faith and in commitments to each other and the communities we serve.

Serving on church council has left me with an overwhelming feeling of thankfulness, and you, fellow congregants, are a huge part of that. It is only through the generous donations of time, talent and financial resources that our church, unlike many, has remained strong during this global crisis. Your generosity, flexibility and resilience remain steadfast as you continue to work as Christ's disciples. We are truly blessed!

Thank you, **Pastor Steve**, for your unfailing leadership and your commitment to keeping all of us safe and rooted in love and the spirit of the Gospel. **Dave Vecchi**, there are no words to express thanks for the countless hours you spent researching and implementing the sale of the water shares. **Congregation**, your magnanimous responses to financial needs resulted in our ability to pay off the mortgage early, enabling us to increase our outreach locally, nationally and globally. **Hope Malloy**, you assumed additional duties as you skillfully orchestrated zoom meetings and attended to the myriad details of a church space that still required attention. Thank you, **Steve Hoffman**, for bringing us into the 21st century with zoom technology, without which we would have had no way to gather. **Ann Hoffman**, you bravely started us on our RIC journey, as we work to become more inclusive in our communities.

In this short space, there is simply no way to individually thank every person in this congregation who helps make SOM a strong and beautiful faith community. I encourage all of you to thank and support each other, particularly those who work 'in the shadows', cleaning the sanctuary, repairing leaks, plowing the parking lots, shoveling steps, giving pastoral care, serving on church council, providing us with music.

Finally, from the bottom of my heart, I want to give God our creator and all of you a humble thank you for this opportunity to serve on church council. Truly, this experience has changed my relationship with Jesus and brought me to a closer kinship with people whom I mistakenly thought I knew. I have been blessed beyond all expectation. And should Jesus come tapping on your shoulder, I encourage you to prayerfully consider that calling.

In Christ's name, Kim Fry, Council President and servant



Finance Report



Shepherd of the Mountains Treasurer's Report to Congregation 5/08/2022

Summary of balances in our Cash Accounts for End of 2021 and YTD through 3/31/22:

	Dec 31, 2021	March 31, 2022
Operating Checking Account	\$75,579	\$92,761
Building Maintenance Reserve Account	\$29,524	\$31,055
Operating Reserve Account	\$14,322	\$14,322
Mortgage Balance	\$20,633	\$0

At year's end, we also had the following restricted donations that are included in the above Operating Account cash balance (i.e. Not available for operations):

Restricted by donor: Scholarships	\$1,170.00
Pass-Through Benevolence	\$7,066.00

Achievements this year include moving funds from the Building Maintenance Reserves to fund key initiatives such as updating to some lighting fixtures to LEDs and upgrading the church computer as well as purchasing a laptop to facilitate Zoom services.

The current mortgage balance is **ZERO!**

Summary of the Operating Cash Flow for end 2021 and YTD 3/31/2022 are below:

	Dec 2021	Mar 31, 2022
Net Income	\$143,640	\$43,511
Less: Capital Campaign Contributions	\$108,340	\$13,633
Less: Reg Mortgage Principal Payments	\$40,408	\$7,133
Less: Contributions <u>to</u> Bldg. Maintenance Reserves	\$10,550	\$3,056
Plus: Transfer <u>from</u> Bldg. Maintenance Reserves	\$11,610	\$1,525
Net Cash Flow – From Operations	\$-4,048	\$21,213

Complete and detailed financial statements are available by contacting the Treasurer.

Your generosity enables SOM to generously and joyfully step forward in Christ's mission. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
David Vecchi, Treasurer
davevecchi@comcast.net



Property

Report for May 2022

The church building continued to be open during the past year and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to all groups using the building. We resumed in-person worship at 10 am in June 2021, held 3 Christmas Eve services and a full Easter service with singing and brass. During the pandemic all building occupants were required to wear face masks, maintain physical distancing and frequent hand hygiene to control the spread of the virus. The property committee continued with ongoing care and improvements of the building.

In the past 12 months we:

- Kept clear of snow a path through the back patio, path around the Fellowship Hall and exit from the sanctuary to the playground path as required by the PCFD. Thank you, Vince and Dave. Due to low snowfall this winter we had minimal damage to the building due to ice dams.
- Plan to repair/paint areas with water damage in the building.
- Removed aging Aspen trees from the property, allowing volunteer trees to grow in place.
- Arranged to have fallen and removed trees/branches chipped by the Park City Fire District.
- Passed the AAA Fire Alarm and Life Safety System Inspection and Sprinkler Inspection after making four sprinkler head replacements, repaired a leaking pipe, and replaced gaskets on the main 4" pipe for the fire suppression system.
- Replaced the backflow valve to the irrigation system as required by Mountain Regional.
- Continued to control the invasive weeds on the Southside of the property by the community garden without using herbicides.
- Reduced use of water in the community garden.
- Replaced fluorescent lights in tube lights in the narthex, sanctuary and in the bathrooms with energy efficient LED bulbs.
- Dave Vecchi and committee made recommendation to the council to sell the 1.5 shares in the Davis & Weber Counties Canal Company. The sale was complete in December 2021.
- Replaced two original furnaces with 95% efficient furnaces with improved air filtration, using money from the building reserves account.
- As members of the Recycle Utah Green Business community, have continued to recycle, reduced our use of plastic and Styrofoam, monitor water usage, etc. This will be more closely tracked in 2022.
- Welcomed clothing collection bin to the parking lot to benefit the Big Brothers / Big Sisters Boys and Girls Club.

Planned for this year:

- Re-varnish the ceiling in the front entry way
- Continue with invasive weed control
- Solicit input on how to mitigate damage from ice dams during the winter.
- Continue to convert interior lighting to LEDs in classrooms where we can anticipate substantial savings in energy usage.
- Remove the balance of the railroad ties from the old playground
- Routine mowing
- Continue community garden, sharing produce with the community and inviting others to join us.
- Determine use for old playground site.
- Explore installing permanent pathways for sanctuary egress on east and west sides of the building.
- Consider need for parking lot repairs and striping.
- Increased involvement in creation care and sustainability through the Green Business Program

Summary: Building and Maintenance is the second largest budget item next to personnel costs. Your Property Committee works very hard to be a good steward of your donations and uses the “time and talents” of members whenever possible. We look forward to a large response when we call for assistance on some of the above planned projects. We also maintain a reserve account to fund sudden, un-budgeted repairs such as additional heat tape, and water heater replacement etc., should they become necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Antinori, Property Committee Chair

Committee Members: Val Thurnell, Vince Desimone, Pastor Steve, Dave Vecchi, Randy Thomson, Robbie Sletta, Bryan Hoffman, Jerry Lorenzen





Stewardship

Families pledging to the **2022 General Fund: 38** (compared to 37 for 2021)

Families pledging to the **2022 Building Capital Campaign Fund: 26** (compared to 24 for 2021)



Council Members

The nominating committee is chaired by the Vice-President of Council and supported by the rest of the council members. Here are this year's nominations for 2021/2022 Church Council:

Position	2021-2022 Council	2022-2023 Council
President	Kim Fry	OPEN
Vice-President	Wendy Johnson	Wendy Johnson
Secretary	Ann Hoffman	Julie Cooper
Treasurer	Dave Vecchi	Jennifer Lopansri
Youth and Education	OPEN	OPEN
Worship	Jennifer Leiser	OPEN
Property	Mary Antinori	OPEN
Social Ministries	Annie Lamb	Annie Lamb
Fellowship	Diane Raymond	Diane Raymond

We thank all those who have served on the Church Council this past year!



Worship and Music Report

As in the prior year, our work in Worship and Music Committee was mainly oriented around the continuing evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and adapting our worship activities around those harsh realities. For part of the year, a separate sub-committee called the Health Team, consisting of Mary Antinori, Stephanie Hurt, and myself, met regularly to discuss the ongoing pandemic and figure out our safest responses to it. The Health Team reported back to the full committee at our monthly meeting. As the pace of change slowed, we merged our sub-committee back into the full committee.

We operated from the central value that, as a Christian community, our primary duty was to protect the vulnerable in our congregation and community. We therefore focused on safety and on using the available scientific evidence to the best of our ability. By protecting our own members through a safe worship experience, we also protected our community by reducing the risk of spread to others beyond our congregation. To our knowledge, no member of SOM has died of COVID, and we are grateful to God for that mercy.

We were able to return to in-person worship in June 2021, much to everyone's delight. It is so fantastic to see each other again in person. At first we were quite conservative in how we conducted worship. We have been gradually adding back elements of our worship service as it seems safe to do so.

We have demonstrated that we have the capability to pivot rapidly in response to changes in the pandemic. The Omicron surge in January caused a very large number of cases and threatened to overwhelm our hospital system. We made an emergency decision to switch back to Zoom-only services for four weeks. The congregation took this in stride and smoothly adapted to the hiatus. By February we were back in the sanctuary again without missing a beat.

We have chosen to use the CDC Community Levels to decide when masks are required. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html> When Summit County levels are green, masks are optional. When yellow, masks are recommended to protect our vulnerable members. When red, masks are required, and the committee would consider changing back to Zoom-only for a period of time. Using this measure will simplify decision making in the future.

Beginning the Sunday after Easter we added back all elements of our worship service, with some adaptations. The committee will be deciding if we should return to a two-service format in the future. This depends on availability of musicians and worship volunteers, and on in-person attendance.

In spite of everything, we had wonderful worship experiences at our special services for Christmas and Easter. Many members of the community attended also.

There are so many members who deserve our thanks for all their efforts to support worship this past year. In addition to our committee (Steve Hoffman, Mary Antinori, Keith Lilley, Steph Hurt, and Pastor Steve), I would like to recognize Altar Guild, the Ushers, our keyboard musicians, and all other worship volunteers for their flexibility and adaptability to change. Diane Raymond located helpful scientific research information on the safety of singing in churches. Hope Malloy responded to our ever-changing requests for new signs, new e-blasts, new website postings, and all else with grace and cheerfulness. The church council provided thoughtful leadership and guided us all to the best decisions. Many others were generous with your support. We are grateful for the cooperation of all to help assure a safe and meaningful worship experience.

It has been my pleasure to serve as committee chair this year.

Jennifer Leiser

Worship and Music Committee Chair





Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee members have essentially, been on hiatus since the onset of COVID. However, we have slowly been adding events for the congregation. Members are Diane Raymond, Barb Lorenzen, Pam Evans, Val Thurnell, Annie Lamb and Cheryl Thomson, all who have been instrumental in getting the group “up & running” again in 2021 & 2022.

The Fellowship Committee & Social Ministries Committee have started meeting on the 4th Thursday of each month, via Zoom. In 2021, the Social Ministries Committee, again, successfully raised money for the “Barn Project”. Money that was in excess of what was needed was combined with money raised for World Central Kitchen to aid in the Ukrainian refugee crisis in Eastern Europe, caused by the invasion of Ukraine by Russia; the total raised for this effort exceeded our expectations, with \$1,750.00 donated in March, 2022. Soup Suppers were again instituted for the Lenten season.

Though our expectation & desire was to host a “bed building” to build beds for under-privileged children in the community, COVID prevented this but, the Social Ministries Committee, raised funds & bedding for Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

In February, the Fellowship Committee hosted a Zoom Trivia Night, with heated competition. In early March, the congregation was invited to snowshoeing/cross-country skiing in the Uintas. Upcoming events include re-instituting the Annual Easter Brunch pot-luck and the Fourth of July Cook-out! The Fourth of July event will also include a celebration for the pay-off of the mortgage for the church. In the summer, the committee hopes to invite congregation members to attend a game at the Salt Lake Bees, attend music events throughout the area, and other events to encourage the fellowship of the congregation. In December, we hope to again host Chrysalis for the annual party. As in the past few years, all of our activities are COVID dependent.

The Fellowship Committee will be busy each week with preparation of coffee, juice and treats in addition to clean up for both of our church services. We would benefit from some more help with either of these services if you have a desire to serve as we are trying to minimize the number of times you are scheduled.

This committee is charged with scheduling social events for our wonderful community a few times a year or assisting with fellowship as part of a larger event. We are open to suggestions for recreational/playful events as this allows interaction outside the boundaries of our church. We are always looking for new adventures!

Some of our activities and events from past years are listed below. We hope to continue these as the community continues to open, post-COVID in 2022/2023.

- May: Running with Ed – May 25th
June: In-person Confirmation.
July/August: Free community concerts in various venues for groups to meet and enjoy together.
September: Highway cleanup on Mirror Lake Highway.
November: Greening of the church!
December: The annual Christmas party for the Chrysalis clients. This is such a fun event!
February: Annual winter potluck, games and outdoor activities.
March: Will be planning Soup suppers prior to evening services during the Lenten season.
April: Variety of options for social events including theater, movies, concerts for family friendly attendance.

We welcome new members to the committee as we celebrate food, friendship, and camaraderie while working for the good of Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church.

Diane Raymond, Fellowship





Social Ministries

American Red Cross Blood Drives: 2 blood drives were held, one in May and one in December 2021 and we anticipate 2 more this year, May 6th and sometime in early December.

Care Packages: Care packages and cards/letters from the congregation were sent to our service member, Thomas Ryan who was serving on a submarine ship in the South China Sea. He returned in April 2022 and will possibly be deployed again this year.

Christian Center of Park City: Many SOTM members and friends continue to donate food directly to the food pantry. We currently have a basket in the narthex that we will continue to gather food for the pantries at the Christian Center.

Chrysalis Party: 38 Danville / Chrysalis clients and the Danville Homes were provided Christmas gifts from SOTM Sub for Santa donations. Because of Covid we were once again not able to hold our annual Chrysalis Christmas party. We hope to be able to continue this annual tradition in December this year of 2022.

Family Farm/ God's Global Barnyard: Over \$1000 was collected and SOM was able to purchase a cow, a couple of goats, a dozen plus chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds for a family living in poverty in an underdeveloped country for \$715. The remainder of the money was dedicated to the World Central Kitchen for Ukrainian food relief at the borders. The total amount donated to WCK was \$1750.00

Meals: Meals were provided to congregational members when needed because of illness and bereavement.

Sponsoring a Child: In 2021 SOM sponsored a child from Timur Island in Indonesia. Her name is Helena De Araujo and she is 16 years old. We found out in April that we have been sponsoring Plan International for nearly 40 years!

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP): In January, the Social Ministry Team put a call to action to help this non-profit with donations to help build beds for children that are displaced in their community. We collected twin sheets for these Sleep in Heavenly Peace beds and those were donated to the SHP chapter in Provo, Utah.

Walk to END Alzheimer's fundraiser: Funds to support this project were raised and we exceeded our team goal of \$2500 and had many participants from SOTM walk in the fundraiser in August 2021.

Please consider to help with this committee in the future 2022/2023 to assist in anyway.

Blessings and Peace ~ Annie Lamb, Social Ministry Chair



Reconciling in Christ (RIC)



Good morning, everyone! The RIC core team here at Shepherd of the Mountains would like to take a moment to thank all of you for your support and interest as the congregation moves forward in our commitment to become a visibly welcoming community to all, irrespective of gender, sexual expression or skin color.

Our work this past year has centered around small group conversations, practicing the arts of listening, and facilitating adult education. Members spent hours researching interesting content intended to challenge all of us as we increase our understanding of what it means to truly love and welcome our neighbors.

Some topics in adult ed included the ELCA endorsed origins of the Reconciling in Christ program, verbiage and definitions related to the LGBTQIA community, and conversations centering around racial justice and racial equity. Val Thurnell, J.J. Ehlers and Jerry Lorenzen took additional online education to become more familiar with the RIC program. No two people look at issues in exactly the same way. However, there is consensus in our church community that we are all beloved children of God and we are called upon to demonstrate that love.

Again, a big thank you to our core team and the congregation, who is truly the core here of our faith community. We look forward to more conversation in the future as we move in the direction of becoming an ELCA recognized RIC church.

Peace,
Ann Hoffman Co-chair RIC
Kim Fry Co-chair RIC