

**Mountain Lake  
Alliance Church**

**2021  
Annual  
Report**

**Love God Love People**

## Lead Pastor 2021 Annual Report

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."  
Matthew 22:37-40

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.  
John 1:14

### Love God Love People

Jesus tells us that the commandments can be summarized into "love God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself". Essentially, Jesus is telling us to Love God and Love People. As our love for God continues to grow, our natural response will be to love people; even people that are not like us, look like us, or act like us. This can be a difficult thing at times, causing us to rely heavily on the power of the Holy Spirit to love God's way.

I believe that our challenge as a body for 2022 is to grow deeper in our love for God and to expand our love for our communities in both word and deed. One way that we plan to reach out to our community is through neighborhood barbeques. The purpose is to simply get to know the people that live around us. We are also planning a community project of painting the bleachers at the track and football field. The purpose is to be a blessing to our community; letting them know that we are for our community!

### Grace and Truth

One of the challenges churches face across the world is finding the balance between grace and truth. Grace is receiving an underserved gift unexpectedly. Truth is based on fact and reality. Lean too heavily on grace and risk becoming lukewarm in our convictions; too heavily on truth and risk becoming legalistic. In John 1:14 the Bible says Jesus was full of grace AND truth. Jesus did not have tension between grace and truth, instead He fully lived out both. Unfortunately, we are not Jesus who is full of grace and truth. The church, which is us, lives in this tension.

I believe God is calling us to be a church that aims for a godly balance of both grace and truth. A place where people experience the grace that Jesus gives and the truth that Jesus lived and taught. A place where we live in the tension of grace and truth and are ok with it. I believe that a church like this is a growing church that changes its community and surrounding communities.

### A Year of Firsts

2021 was a year of firsts for me personally. It was the first time that I was a lead pastor of a church which meant making decisions and setting priorities that I believe to be best for our church family and for the Kingdom. It was the first time that I lead a staff and multiple boards. And the first time that I was consistently delivering a message most weeks. It has definitely been a learning

experience. It's forced me to fine tune my leadership skills and yet learn to rely on others. The Lord has continued to teach me that I can depend on His strength and guidance.

### **So Many to Thank**

I want to first thank my wonderful staff that makes me look way better than I am. To Ricardo, Kelly, Petra, Colleen, Kyle, Jessica, Mike, Karen, and Johanna: I consider it an honor to serve with you! I could not do this job without you! To our Elders Bryan, Nik, Steve, Wade, Mike, and Kurt. Thank you for being patient with a new guy. I appreciate your wisdom and service! To the BOA and Trustees, Gene, Norm, Marty, Cindy, Mike, Brandon, Daniel, Burton, thank you for all that you do. Much was accomplished in the building this year. I also want to thank the team that redecorated the stage, the team that helped with the sound panels, and the design team. Thank you to the team that headed up the 100 year celebration and all those that helped prepare the building for the big event. Thank you to our wonderful Deaconess board, kitchen team, youth leaders, children's leaders, life learning teachers, small group leaders, mentors, ushers, men's bible study leaders, women's ministry, woman's Christmas party, worship team, media team, trunk or treat team, and safety team. Since this list is endless, please extend me grace for not going on. As you can see there is so many people that make up the life of this Church! What a wonderful church!!

Finally, I want to thank my wonderful wife and family that journeyed to Mountain Lake with me this past year. I know that I can speak for them when I say we feel loved and appreciated!

Pastor Jeremy Oakland  
Lead Pastor

## Associate/Worship Pastor 2021 Annual Report

This year I began ministry as the Associate/Worship Pastor of Alliance Church. This has officially added some responsibility to the work I was doing previously. Here are some highlights of both:

### Music Ministry

Currently we have around 40 people involved in the Music Ministry. This includes vocalists, musicians, sound and media. We are excited as we have some new people involved as well as more young students.

Another big highlight was the purchase and installation of our new sound system and acoustical treatment for our worship center. I am thankful for your generous giving and willingness to support this. The system we had in place was not adequate to what we were doing, and it had replaced a system which had been installed 15 years ago! So, it was due for an upgrade. And thanks to God and you the church body, we were able to do this. Not only did we upgrade our speakers, but we also got a new soundboard, an in-ear monitor system, and a drums cage which helps to have more control over the sound. We also purchased some new lights which we are still tweaking to get them to the place we want. Because of the sound upgrade in the gym, we were able to send the old speakers to the sanctuary, and complement them with some subwoofers. So now we have much better sound in the sanctuary as well. So, this was all a 2 for one. THANK YOU for your support!!!

### **Online Service**

We also made a big change with our online service streaming. We went away from the Livestream platform, which cost us almost \$1000 a year, and went to a different platform which not only now allows us to broadcast to our website, YouTube and Facebook, but is FREE!! This process was not easy as I did a lot of research, set up, configuration, equipment installation, etc., but we now have a better way of doing our services online. And we will continue to make things better as we can. Additionally, I set up a group of people that help us with the handling of the camera so we have better coverage of what's happening vs. just having one same shot throughout the whole broadcast.

### **Youth Worship Team**

I continue to work with the Youth worship team. My daughter Abi continues to head this up, but we still have several students that were involved before, and some new students as well. Big thank you to Brayden Oakland, Cristy Renteria, Fairlane Penner, Grant Oakland, Izzi Penner, Kearney Wall, Lola Morin, Trevor Meyer and Tyler Dick for helping out with the youth worship team. It's a joy to see these kids use their talents to glorify God. And it's a privilege for me to work with such a great group of kids!

### Associate Pastor Ministry

#### **Preaching**

It is a joy for me to be part of the preaching schedule in our church body. My desire is to hear God's voice and the message He wants to share with the church. The messages always challenge me first, and I pray that they would challenge us so we can live as representatives of Christ Jesus.

**Life Learning**

We are thankful to once again offer Life Learning classes to our church. In the Fall we started this again offering 4 classes that took place during the new 2 service schedule at 9 & 10:30am. There are now 2 classes during first service and 2 during the second service. Thank you to the teachers that are involved in equipping our church through these Life Learning classes.

**Visitation/Hymn Sings**

In addition to the contact that I have with the church family, Gary and Karen Poortvliet have been added to the staff to help with visiting, calling and contacting several of our people, especially the elderly. This has been a great blessing for our church as they minister to this group.

Gary and Karen have also been in charge of setting up Hymn Sings for those that enjoy worshipping in this way. There has been a hymn sing every 3 months or so, and we will continue to do this.

**Weddings/Funerals**

I had the privilege of officiating the wedding of Scott and Rachel Sefcik. It was a blessing to do this and celebrate this special day with them.

I was part of several funerals that took place in our church. We are saddened by the loss of these people, but have hope in seeing them in Heaven.

**Greeters/Ushers**

As of Fall, we have revamped our usher ministry. Our desire is to be better organized and be able to help people as they come to church. We will continue to make adjustments, hoping to improve this part of our ministry.

We started up the greeter ministry once again. Every service we have a couple at the entrance to welcome all who walk into our building on Sunday mornings. Thank you to our ushers and greeters.

**Hispanic Service**

My family and I continue to minister in the Hispanic Church, "Manantial de Vida" (Spring of Life). We work alongside Pastor Rafael to do worship, preaching, kids ministry, visitation and general ministry to the people of this group. It is also a joy!

Thank you, church family, for the privilege that you give me to serve God and you! It is a joy for me to live out Joshua 24:15, "As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord". Hallelujah!!

In Christ,  
Pastor Ricardo Renteria

## Youth Pastor 2021 Annual Report

I would like to wrap up the last year of youth ministry into one phrase, and that phrase would be "I don't know". From January through May that phrase was used a lot as we continued to deal with Covid preventing us from doing many of the events the youth were used to doing annually. Throughout the summer we wondered how the schools and sporting events would be done and if we would see at least a small part of what we deemed normal return, yet still we heard "I don't know".

Thankfully as we moved through the summer and into the fall we were able to see many things return to some degree of normal for the students. We have maintained a consistency of gathering that was not available to us last year and it is exciting to see students become more involved as God is working in the youth ministry!

### **Past Year**

From January to May we were able to meet weekly on Wednesday nights with very few cancelations due to Covid. The consistency helped students connect with each other and their small groups that we had every week. We averaged around 60 students and 8 amazing adult leaders who made it all possible!

Through the summer we continued to have weekly gatherings outside of the church. This time was used as a way for students to stay involved with the youth ministry and with each other as our focus was mainly on fun and fellowship (having A&W ice cream wasn't too bad either). The biggest event would have been our annual trip to ValleyFair which saw 45 students attend! I enjoyed having this summer as I started the previous year in October and missed the opportunity to connect with students the summer prior.

From September to December we met weekly on Wednesday nights. We averaged about 70 students and 10 wonderful leaders. I have seen tremendous growth in the relationships between the students and adults as the leaders build those relationships weekly through both our small group time and the meal that we have started providing every week.

We started our youth Life Learning class in September where we spent 3 months working through *How To Study Your Bible*. We had 7-12 all combined during that time but are looking forward to separating them into Middle School and High School classes this next year.

### **Going Forward**

As we look forward I am excited for the conferences we have coming up: Ignite, March 11-12, and Life, July 5-9. I have found large group and overnight events to be tremendous culture building opportunities that leave a lasting impact on the youth ministry as a whole, even beyond the students who attend. The fact that I might have more fun at these events than most students just adds to the excitement!

I am so excited to see how God has worked through this last year and all of the "I don't know" questions we have had. It is a reminder that we do not always know, or see, what God is doing but He is at work in all of it. As I grow closer with these students, I am seeing the specific ways that God is teaching each of them and am so excited to be a part of it!

Kyle Thiessen, Youth Pastor

## Elementary Children's Ministry 2021 Annual Report

I am thankful to be able to report to you what has been happening in my area of Children's Ministry this past year. I came on board as the new Elementary Director on January 1. I went right to work to make some specific updates to continue our goal to engage our children and equip our families to encounter the living God and share that love with others. I want to lead children to Jesus, who can guide others to Him. As Jesus put it, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"* (Matthew 19:14).

Here are some of the highlights 2021 brought.

**Building updates** – With the new nursery and preschool room updates, Petra and I got to work to paint and decorate the area with bright colors, stripes to help people find where they need to go, and wall art to make it feel like a place kids want to hang out. In addition, I updated the Elementary wing with a transformation of the Noah's Ark room to an Oasis Room with bright colors, Scripture wall art, a stage, and large screen TV. We were able to keep a few pieces of Jennifer Rempel's painting to honor her memory. The room was enlarged by taking down a wall to the adjacent classroom, which was needed as our number grew. We are now prepared to welcome even more children into our spaces. In addition, classrooms were painted to stay with the theme, and new tables provided the room for our growing family of Elementary children. All in all, it became an environment where kids are excited, and Jesus is in focus. I am thankful for all the great volunteers who helped paint and do the carpentry we needed to make it happen.

**Kids Church** – I continued our great kids' church program that was already up and running using the Orange's 252 Curriculum full of the word of God and training in God's kingdom principles with fun and movement the kids need to grow in excitement and passion for following Jesus. 252 is based on Luke 2:52, which says, *"Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and favor with God and all the people."* We want our children to grow the way Jesus did. I have witnessed this happening each week as we meet. As our numbers continue to grow, God has given me great volunteer adults and teens who help me guide the children to encounter Jesus each week.

**Life Learning** – The Life Learning time continued to be an excellent place for the discipleship of our children. Gifted volunteers led them each week into God's word and learning His ways. A curriculum change occurred in the fall to using Group's Dig In curriculum, which emphasizes transformation instead of information. This year's theme was the Foundation of the Faith.

**Easter Event** – On Good Friday, April 2, we held an Easter Family Event called Rise Up with Jesus with a great team of volunteers. The gym was converted to stations where families experienced different aspects of the story of Easter. Gadgets, games, science experiments, and balloons with streamers made the time exciting while learning what it looks like to rise up with Jesus every day. Attendance was around 20+ families plus 15+ volunteers.

**Small Groups** – To build and encourage relationships, I started F8, a small group of 8 kids who would sign up to have a fun activity together. We did activities like making cupcakes, planting a mini garden, playing games, and hanging out. A final larger group was able to go out to Ride by Faith and have pony rides and games.

**Pow Wow Booth** – During the annual Pow Wow event, Petra and I worked together to provide a booth where kids could play games for free and get small prizes. This booth was a chance to interact with kids from the community and introduce our ministry to them. God provided some awesome volunteers to help. It was a great hit with the families who wanted to let their kids have fun without spending more money. This booth will become an ongoing ministry we will provide.

**VBS** – Our annual VBS was moved to July 12-15 because of the school schedule and was changed to a four-day program. Our theme was *Rocky Railway, Jesus' power pulls us through*. The kids traveled from Sing and Play Express to Bible Adventures, Imagination Station, Loco-Motion Games, and KidVid Cinema, where they enjoyed Chew Chew snacks. Each day they had a new Bible point. Day one: Jesus' power helps us do hard things, Philippians 4:13. Day two: Jesus' power gives us hope, Psalm 31:24. Day three: Jesus' power helps us be bold, Isaiah 40:29. Day four: Jesus' power lets us live forever, Romans 8:11. Our average attendance was around 60, with seven kids praying to receive Christ and several others rededicating their lives to Jesus.

**J-Walkers Club** – With the close of our area Awana program, we decided to start a Wednesday night club held at our church for the community kids. Petra and I brainstormed and came up with the name J-Walkers, learning to walk with Jesus because we want all the children God sends to know the love of Jesus and be drawn into a relationship with Him. We chose to use the Pioneer Club material because of its emphasis on discipleship, Bible skill development. Plus, it has material that does not need as much outside support, so kids who do not have it can still get all they need each week. In addition, every 5<sup>th</sup> club night is a skills night where kids learn hands-on skills and learn about the many ways we see God in our daily lives. Johanna Ruby came on board as the J-Walker Director and has done a fantastic job organizing, recruiting, and sharing her heart and gifts. On our first night of club, we had almost 80 kids show up, with only 17 preregistered. The club has maintained an average attendance of 70+ with a total registration of 94 kids, of which two-thirds are from the community. The night begins with Worship and Bible exploration, and then the kids break into small groups and game time. We are so thankful for our dedicated volunteers who spend quality time loving and teaching these kids to know and love Jesus for their whole lives. I am excited to see how God will use this program to raise a new generation of Christ followers who reach the world for Him. Club will run from September through May each year.

**Christmas Program** – On December 12, the Children of the Church put on the Christmas musical *Felix Finds Christmas*, which emphasized adoption and how Jesus' birth brought us into His family when we accept Him as Lord and Savior. A combination of great songs, fun story, and brave actors told the story of Christ's birth and a full gospel presentation. We performed our musical in both morning services to rave reviews. I am thankful to Candice Bartel for helping with the music, Steve and Eileen Thiessen assisting backstage and with lines during the production, and Rachel Yoder for helping with the set. Most of all, I want to thank my fantastic group of actors who learned their parts well and performed with gusto.

It has been a great honor to serve our children and the church family this year. I appreciated the many prayers and encouragement sent my way as I forged through ministry and working on my master's classes. I also was able to get licensed with the Alliance to better serve here at Mountain Lake Alliance. Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,  
Colleen Johnson, Elementary Children's Minister



## Early Childhood Ministry 2021 Annual Report

I am excited to share what has been happening in Early Childhood throughout this past year! Before I share the highlights, I want to say a big thank you to the 70+ volunteers who serve in various positions in Early Childhood ministry. Your support and involvement allow us to minister to the youngest members of our church family.

At the start of 2021, my position changed from Children's Ministry Director to Early Childhood Director. Due to the new position my main focus became children ages birth-PreK. Working alongside Colleen we strived toward our goal of engaging our children and equipping our families to encounter the living God and share that love with others.

Here are some highlights of 2021:

**Nursery** - In the Nursery I added Bible verses and prayers around the room for volunteers to use as prompts to pray over the children they care for each week. I also began providing a specific book for volunteers to read to children and a corresponding coloring sheet. My goal in this room is to provide an atmosphere where children feel loved while they begin learning about God's love. There are roughly 50 Nursery volunteers who take turns caring for our church's little ones.

**Preschool** - In the Preschool room, not only do children get to spend time playing alongside their peers, but they also spend time learning about God through a weekly video lesson and craft! Children have access to this video lesson and other resources at home through our Youtube channel.

**Life Learning** - I oversee the 3 & 4 year old classroom as well as the 5/ Kindergarten classroom. We have been using the HeartShaper curriculum for these groups which has age-appropriate lessons designed to help children discover God through His Word. I am incredibly thankful for the amazing volunteers who are so faithful to serve each week as Life Learning teachers and assistants.

**Indoor Playtime** - Twice a month children and parents are able to get together in the gym for Indoor Playtime. This is a chance for parents to connect while children are able to run off their energy.

**Preschool Craft Time** - This fall I introduced Preschool Craft Time where parents brought their child(ren) to the Oasis Room and completed a variety of crafts and activities. In October the theme was 'Fall' and November's theme was 'Thanksgiving'.

**Easter Event & VBS** - Preschoolers were able to attend both the Good Friday Easter Event & VBS this year. For more information on either of these events check out the Elementary Annual Report.

**Trunk or Treat** - Our second annual Trunk or Treat event took place on October 31. This event has quickly become a highlight for me since it truly brings together the whole community. This year we had 12 trunks, a bounce house, face painting, temporary tattoos, hayrides, hotdogs, popcorn, hot beverages, and a hay bale photo display. Families from our community came to enjoy this event and we estimated that there were roughly 400 people in attendance. Thank you for all who volunteered your time to make this community event a success!

**Children's Ministry Pow Wow Booth** - This year Colleen and I worked together on a children's Pow Wow Booth. Volunteers signed up for two hour shifts to help children play games and earn prizes for participating. We heard many kids say it was one of their favorite parts of Pow Wow! It was a great chance to connect with the community and share more about our ministry.

**Christmas Program** - For the Christmas program this year I recruited the help of Daviana Winger since I was expecting right around that time. She did a fantastic job of working with our Preschoolers and leading them in three songs at the start of the program. I am so thankful for her leadership and for the Preschoolers who all did a wonderful job!

In conclusion, I am thankful for the privilege of serving as the Director of Early Childhood Ministry. Thank you for your support as I serve in this role. I would ask for continued prayers that children come to know the Lord through this ministry.

Petra Montagne  
Early Childhood Director

## Elder Board 2021 Annual Report

The Elders are responsible for spiritual oversight and governance of the church. As Elders we are focused primarily on Vision or Ends; how we believe God is calling us to change the world, for whom, and at what cost. So we spend a part of every meeting discussing our vision as a church, the unique problems or situations we are facing, the opportunities and resources God has given us, prioritizing our resources to those ends, and praying for these needs, opportunities, and for guidance and provision, as well as praying for specific people and needs within our body.

The Elder Board is chaired by our Lead Pastor. While the Elder Board is responsible for Vision, Our Lead Pastor, through his staff, is responsible for Mission, or Means of accomplishing that Vision, and therefore is responsible for all church programs and ministries; and the Board of Administration is responsible for Mission as it pertains to buildings, grounds and finances.

This year was Pastor Jeremy's first year as our lead pastor, and chairman of the Elder Board. The year began with a handing of the baton from Pastor Kevin to Pastor Jeremy. This was a beautiful service. Our District Superintendent, Dan Scarrow spoke, reflecting on the Walzaks' faithful service to our congregation while serving here, and encouraging our congregation in supporting and loving the Oaklands as they begin their ministry. Following the service there was an open house for the Walzak family, with guidelines in place out of concern for the spread of Covid. We are thankful to Pastor Kevin and his faithful leadership during his time here, and for Linette and their family. We are also grateful for our new Pastor, Jeremy Oakland, for Jessica and their three children, and look forward to this next season of ministry and their leadership.

Covid continued to be a challenge, especially during the first half of 2021. We chose to do two services with different guidelines for the first four months of the year. Masks were required in first service. Our goal was to provide a service in which those who work in health care, the school system, or with the elderly, or who are vulnerable for any reason would receive maximum protection. The goal in second service was to respect individual freedom and choice. Many in our congregation had already had Covid. We recommended the wearing of masks but did not require or enforce this. We are grateful for having gone through this crisis without any significant conflict or turmoil in relationships and are grateful for the patience we were shown as leaders as we maneuvered these challenges. But three persons in our congregation died over the last year because of Covid, and this has been especially difficult for these families and for our congregation as we have grieved their passing.

In August we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a congregation. Pastor John Stumbo, currently President of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, was our speaker. Former Pastors Byron Emmert, Dennis Siebert, Kevin Walzak, and Nik Strom were all in attendance, and participated in a panel discussion along with former church secretary Sue Neufeld. This was a beautiful weekend reflecting on God's graciousness to our congregation throughout the past 100 years, ending with a challenge by President John Stumbo to continued faithfulness to God's plans and purposes for us in the future.

We are grateful for our Pastoral Staff; Pastor Jeremy, Pastor Ricardo, Youth Director Kyle, and Children's Ministry Staff Members Petra and Colleen. God continues to bless us with capable, faithful, caring pastoral staff who love God and love us well. Thank you to each of you and your

families. We have also been blessed by Kelly's leadership in the church office, and by Jessica's participation in worship, and for Mike and Karen and others who faithfully take care of our facility.

Elders provided prayer, mentoring and benevolence to a number of persons and families in our church this past year, as well as facilitating the cup of water ministry, that assists with the needs of people in our community who are not a part of our church. We as an Elder Board consider it a privilege to serve the body in this way. We sense God's calling, and rely on His guidance and provision, in facilitating the building up of the body in the faith, and the goal to reach maturity in Christ. Our Lay Elders this year included: Bryan Barga, Steve Syverson, Wade Nelson, Mike Pearson, Nik Strom, and Kurt Jahnke. This was a great first year with Pastor Jeremy and bonding together as a new Elder Board.

Respectfully Submitted  
Bryan Barga - Head Elder

*"Our Vision is to be a community of healthy followers of Jesus Christ who are impacting our community, region and world for His Glory. We accomplish this vision when we intentionally connect people in four ways: with God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), with His Word (The Bible), with Each Other (the Body of Christ), and with the World (our Neighbors)."*

**Board of Administration**  
**2021 Annual Report**

Active Members: Pastor Jeremy Oakland, Norman Holmen, Cindy Quiring, An Acting Elder, Burton Stoesz, Gene Bottin, Mike Christophel, Marty Espenson, Pastor Ricardo

Board met monthly to review and discuss financial and structural needs and desired projects of the Alliance Church.

Projects completed: Handicapped bathroom on the main floor, sound system upgrades, new HVAC at the parsonage. Completion of children's area in basement.

Good things happening with youth and children's: Kyle Thiessen continues to work and grow the youth program.

Pastor Jeremy is actively learning his new role. Focused on what the church and community needs are. Outreach/Serving the community and emphasizing on growing the youth and children's programs.

Petra Nelson and Colleen Johnson continue to work with the children's ministry program, and Johanna Ruby is working with the J-walkers.

Pastor Ricardo stepped into the assistant/music pastor position and continues to serve in many areas throughout the church and community.

Kevin's sabbatical pay ended in the fall and a new position will be created for discipleship. The new person will start the position in the early spring.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Quiring

**Trustees**  
**2021 Annual Report**

The Trustees had a busy year:

- pulled cat 6 wires for cameras & TV
- cleaned out old TVs and other items
- pulled wires for sound booth to stage
- took center light holder down
- built stage in kids Oasis room
- removed wall and put in beam in kids Oasis room
- helped build sound booth in the gym
- removed sound boards and put up new panels
- fixed gutters on west side of gym
- created handicap bathroom and remodeled old bathrooms
- replaced heating system in parsonage
- put up new lights on back wall of gym

Submitted by  
Michael Christophel

**Deaconess Board**  
**2021 Annual Report**

The purpose of the Deaconess Board is to serve our congregation. It is our desire to help care for the body of Christ here at Mt. Lake Alliance. This past year's activities included;

- Attending monthly planning meetings
- Managing the prayer chain. Thank you to those who partnered with us in prayer for those in need.
- Preparing for communion when it is part of the service.
- Sending cards to those who were ill, hospitalized or needed a word of encouragement.
- Encouraging our recent high school graduates by sending them a care package in the fall.
- Setting up meals for families who have a need. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to prepare and deliver a meal to a family.
- Assisting with the baptism services.
- Sending birthday and Christmas gifts to the children of missionary families
- Praying for the families in our church and the missionaries we support.
- Sending memorials for funerals.

In His Name and for His Glory!

Gail Pearson - Head Deaconess  
Brenda Harder  
Bonnie Junker  
Marta Junker  
Kelly Nelson  
Sue Rempel  
Mo Therkilsen

## Women's Ministry 2021 Annual Report



Looking back at the year past – 2021, brings thankful thoughts for the times and events we had to fellowship, connect, study, and pray together as women of the church.

Some of the year's happenings included:

Bible Study in the winter, spring, summer, and late fall. Merna Swanson led an "Elijah" study and an Advent Study. Gail Pearson led a study on how moving forward in faith and trust can reduce our anxious thoughts and attitudes. The Women's Leadership Team each presented a woman of faith at 5 summer meetings. Thank you to Merna, Gail and the Team for providing opportunities to gather and study together.

The Sister Social was held on April 25 with Liz Martin from Willmar providing an encouraging and challenging message. Thank you to Merna Swanson for doing much of the planning of the event, and for providing food and beautiful decorations – all making for an enjoyable time to be together as sisters in Christ.

Ongoing events such as MUMS, Mom's in Prayer, and Let's Have Coffee met as able throughout the year. Each has women who consistently come together to share encouragement, the Word, and pray for specific persons and ministries. It is a delight to see the young women taking leadership at MUMs and Mom's in Prayer.

A small group of women of the church did much to make needed items for Bongolo Hospital and sent requested items to be used in the hospital's ministry to patients and their families as they share the love of Jesus with the people of Gabon. Thanks to all who participated in this by preparing items and donating money for purchases and shipping costs.

The North Central District Women's Retreat "Bee Restored" with guest speaker Jane Rubietta was able to be held in person at Big Sandy Camp September 24-26. The seven women from our church family who attended had a wonderful weekend together and were encouraged by the worship and messages presented at retreat.

Several evenings of gathering small groups of ladies of the church to discuss how Women's Ministry can best serve the women in the future were held in October. The Team was greatly encouraged by the attendance and good discussion and input given. All this is helping to shape Women's Ministry in 2022.

It was a delight to be able to again have the Ladies Christmas Party this year. The beautiful tables, room décor, music and food created a lovely evening to begin the Christmas Season. Linette Walzak provided a thoughtful speech focusing on how Mary's response to her God given role in God's salvation plan should lead our hearts and attitudes in a likewise manner. A special thank you to the planning committee: Ann Nelson, Dee Haglund, Rosalie Dick, Heather Frederiksen and Rachel Yoder. The committee's dedication to this event is greatly appreciated!



The Women's Ministry Team consists of Katie Dick, Patty Parker, Karen Poortvliet, Heather Rahn, and Tammi Samuelson. The team volunteers their time because of each member's heart to have the women of the church grow in fellowship and faith. Please know ALL women of the church are welcome and included in the events of Women's Ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Poortvliet, WMLT Leader

**Library**  
**2021 Annual Report**

This year the library was used normally. Books were checked out and used by the all ages of the Church body.

Books continue to be gone through for eliminating or fixing. Also new books are being added to keep the selection current.

We desire to keep the reading material that encourages and to develop a Godly life available for those all ages in the Church body.

Respectfully submitted  
Merna Swanson