

2020 Deacon Board Annual Report

Looking back, it would seem better to forget 2020 rather than reflect on it, in doing that though we would be missing out on the opportunity to give thanks for the many blessings we received! Covid certainly takes most of the spotlight with many negative impacts on our lives, economically, mentally, physically and spiritually, for some though it has provided the much needed time for reflection and creativity needed to sustain us through these times; maybe even a few jobs on the to-do list have been completed with the extra time most of us have had on our hands!

Starting out normally for the most part the deacons continued to arrange for service leaders and pulpit supply during our vacancy. They were also able to arrange a presentation and seminar with Ron Ludke highlighting the work of LAMP. This was very well received and garnered interest in future mission work; unfortunately this interest was hindered with the onslaught of covid. VELC has been very blessed to continue having Rod Masterson, Brian Fuller, Lyndon Wall and Ella Loberg fill in and bring us a message when needed.

Covid soon took center stage and started what turned out to be the first of many tough decisions for council. Our search for a pastor and regular worship services changed whether we agreed or not, plans to promote an upcoming youth gathering were squashed.

Thanks to Rob Kjemhus and his attention to detail and tradition, the deacons and council were able to distribute Easter lilies to the ladies of the congregation bringing a smile to many!

Probably one of the main highlights of 2020 was to welcome Darcy Albers and his family, Laura, Lilly and Asher to serve as our student pastor. Unconventional compared to most internships, Darcy has been doing a wonderful job preaching, interacting with youth and congregation members and serving as our member on the ministerial association.

The deacons met with the parish ed to help navigate these unprecedented times and thank them for a successful VBS program. The deacons also continue to serve on the call committee and some on the internship committee.

Thanks to Steve and Chris for initiating the upgraded software so desperately needed to continue providing the top quality online services; a gift from God reflected in the number of people tuning in to hear the message!

On a more personal note, I continue to thank God daily for a speedy recovery from my heart surgery. Thanks to Chris and Steve for filling in where needed during my absence and also many thanks to the whole church body for their prayers during that time.

Going forward I continue to ask God for wisdom and discernment, and pray for the council that our decisions fulfil His plan and that His will be done.

Respectfully submitted

Les Obst