Laestadian Lutheran Church
279 N. Medina Street. Suite 150
Loretto, MN 55357

Annual Meeting of the Laestadian Lutheran Church — July 4, 2020

MINUTES

Date/time: Saturday, July 4, 2020 10:00 a.m. CDT

Location: Rockford Laestadian Lutheran Church (online with remote attendees)
741 Ibarra Ave NE, Buffalo, MN 55313

Items/Att:

1		Opening Hymn, Prayer, Devotion
2		Call Meeting to Order
3		Greetings
4		Approval of Minutes
5	– Op Pln	**2021 LLC Draft Operating Plan**
6		2021 Membership Dues
7		Election of LLC Board Members
8		Future LLC Summer/Winter Services
9		Reports from Delegates: Unfinished Business, New Business
10		Adjournment, Closing

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Item 1: Opening

Meeting convened at 10:00 a.m.
Opening hymn: SHZ #159 *In Zion's temple I shall stand*
Devotion: Randy Herrala (Luke 22:39–42)
Hymn: SHZ #188 *Jerusalem, God's Zion*
Hymn: SHZ #140 *Saints of God,* sung in memory of all believers who have gone to rest during the past year.

Item 2: Call Meeting to Order: *Jim Frantti*

The Annual Meeting of the Laestadian Lutheran Church (LLC) was held online on Saturday, July 4, 2020, 10:00 a.m. CDT originating from the Rockford Laestadian Lutheran Church, 741 Ibarra Ave NE, Buffalo, MN 55313.

From LLC Bylaws, Article II, Section 5:
The number of Delegates selected by each member congregation to attend the Annual Meeting is determined as follows: 1 to 49 members in the congregation – one (1) Delegate
50 to 99 members in the congregation – two (2) Delegates
100 members and over in the congregation – three (3) Delegates
Three Delegates is the maximum allowed any one congregation.

Congregation Delegates:
62 of 70 congregation delegates signed on to the Zoom online meeting. This constituted a quorum, and all business before the meeting could be properly conducted. Congregation delegates were registered by member congregations in accordance with LLC Bylaws, Article II, Section 5. Such registration constitutes the official congregation representation at the Annual Meeting.

Selection of officers for meeting:
Chairmen (2): Mike Forstie, Cokato; Dave Keranen, Menahga
Secretaries (2): Aaron Laho, Monticello; Josh Ylitalo, Minneapolis
Proofreaders (2): Brent Herrala, Roaring Fork Valley; Nate Loukusa, Elk River;
Ballot committee (2): Not chosen at this time.
Translators: (no translation necessary)

Approval:
Prescott Valley delegate Jim Moll made a motion to approve, seconded by Minneapolis delegate Barb Lever. Motion approved. Mike Forstie served as chairman for the first part of the meeting.

Item 3: Greetings

Greeting from Finland: A previously recorded video greeting from Matti Taskila, SRK was broadcast during the Opening Services on Thursday evening.
Greeting from Sweden: Similarly, a previously recorded video greeting from Timo Löppönen, SFC was broadcast during the Opening Services on Thursday evening.

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Item 4: Minutes of July 6, 2019, Annual Meeting

The Minutes of the July 6, 2019, LLC Annual Meeting were mailed to member congregations on August 26, 2019. The proofreaders conveyed their approval of the minutes as written on August 9 and August 26, 2019.

Proposal: Approve the minutes as written and submitted to member congregations on August 26, 2019.

Discussion: None.

Decision: Glendale delegate Maurice Pirness made a motion to approve the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes, seconded by Elk River delegate Paul Wuollet. Motion approved.

Item 5: 2021 LLC Draft Operating Plan

The Operating Plan covers progress and plans on the work of the Church, especially new items to bring to the attention of the membership and to receive input from delegates. It is necessary to remember that much work is ongoing and important, but cannot all be noted in this Plan. The office staff and Board will continue in a variety of ways to keep the membership informed of the ongoing work of the Church.

See attachment: He shall feed his flock like a shepherd (Isa. 40:11)
2021 Laestadian Lutheran Church Operating Plan
(Proposed Plan – 2020 LLC Annual Meeting)

Discussion / Delegate Input:

Jim Frantti reminded delegates that the Operating Plan is a draft, intended to lay out our thoughts for the work for the coming year. At this meeting we are looking for feedback from the delegates. If we need to modify the plan based on the feedback, a revised plan will be sent out for consideration and approval from delegates. That will then be brought to the October LLC Board Meeting for final approval.

Highlights presented at the Annual Meeting by the LLC Board and Directors:

Jim Frantti—LLC Board

The 15 members of the LLC Board attend board meetings and also serve on various board committees. We have felt the guidance of God's spirit which has preserved the unity of love and spirit and faith. This same unity exists with the boards of our sister organizations in Finland and Sweden. We work together in virtually every area of work we have and feel like we function more like one board in different locations. Every other year we have a meeting of the three organizations. SRK will host the next cooperative meeting in April 2021. LLC and SRK staff have contact and meetings weekly or every other week, and we support each other and share resources. Recently SRK requested representatives from LLC and SFC to a meeting in Finland to review and give input for SRK's latest history book. Harri Vahajylkka, who is returning with his family to Finland, has been hired by SRK as Communications Director and Editor-in-

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Chief of *Päivämies* and *Siionin Lähetyslehti.* This will strengthen the connection between the two organizations. Randy Herrala and Duane Pirness are retiring this year from the LLC Board.

Jon Bloomquist—Mission Work

Domestic Mission Work:
Evening Devotions: An unplanned and unexpected development as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic was the Evening Devotion program. The feedback has been very positive with requests to continue the program. Devotions are currently scheduled through the end of July, with plans to continue them through the end of the year. We suspect this may become a permanent part of our work.

Toolbox of materials: The Midwestern Area Mission Committee continues to work on developing materials to use in domestic mission work. A survey has been drafted to garner input from members regarding what kinds of tools might be most helpful to our members in doing mission work even on a personal level; what media forms might be useful; and common questions from unbelieving workmates, classmates and neighbors. They are also developing questions to interview people who have received the grace of repentance, and also prodigals who have returned, to see how they perceive God's kingdom and the message of God's kingdom.

Foreign Mission Work:
Online Services: The pandemic has changed foreign mission work a great deal. Mission trips are not possible now and we don't know when they will be. It might not be before 2021, but we are prepared and ready to spring into action as soon as possible. Meanwhile, we have been able to provide online services in Ecuador, a great blessing for them in that for the first time in the last 20 years, they have been having services every Sunday with a few exceptions. Congregation members are isolated in their own homes with the minister in the U.S., Canada or even Finland, and a translator in Ecuador, Canada, Finland, or the U.S. It has worked very well, and the Ecuadorians are very grateful. In Africa, due to technology differences, we have provided 20 to 30-minute devotions recorded on WhatsApp and sent to Kenya, where local translators record on WhatsApp and send to the believers in their own countries. They are also very thankful for this.

Foreign Facilities: The Atimé project, in the pipeline for 10 to 15 years, was underway with funding sent for the first phase with ground clearing completed. However, the pandemic put a halt to the work. Emmanuel Ametsifé, project manager, had just gone on a mission trip to Sierra Leone with a brother from Gambia, and both brothers are still stranded there due to the pandemic—their planned return on June 22 did not materialize. There are fewer restrictions in Gambia, a month ago a church project was started in Busumbala which should be completed around the end of August. In Rwanda, due to tighter restrictions, only one facility now passes building codes. These projects will deplete the building fund and we will need active fundraising for next year's projects. In January, the LLC Board established a Foreign Facilities Fundraising Coordinator position. Don Rousu from Phoenix has agreed to serve in that capacity and is ready to start doing that work. We will provide him with photos and videos from the building projects and a list of projects we hope to tackle next year.

Group trip to Ecuador: We have a draft itinerary in place for a group trip to Ecuador in August 2021. We are waiting for on-ground cost estimates, and airline fares won't be available until September. We will send materials to the congregations as soon as we have more information. With the pandemic, it is not

clear if this trip will be possible, but we are hopeful, and the believers in Ecuador are looking forward to that possibility.

Humanitarian Aid: Every 2 weeks or so during COVID-19, we are sending special subsistence grants to various African countries and Ecuador, which works to about 20 cents per day per person. This allows them to have a very basic meal once day. All the countries receiving aid appreciate it deeply, and in spite of its small amount, it is very significant for them. Funds are in good shape at the moment, but fundraising will be needed for continued support. It appears things may get worse in Africa before they get better.

Jon Bloomquist—Pastoral Work

Funeral Pre-planning Guide: This 3-part guide has now been posted in the Document Portal for ministers. One document deals with funeral planning from the perspective of pastors, with possible committee help locally. A second guide is for families, and a third guide is for individuals wanting to plan their own funeral. Some suggestions and guidelines have been posted with these documents to help ministers begin to implement those guides. You may ask your ministers about the guide.

Ministers Camp: The 2020 camp was cancelled will be rescheduled for 2021. We expect to have a decision on a date by late summer or early fall.

Bible Translation: The main purpose of this evaluation committee has been to identify 2 translations for reference and study and provide an explanation of the translation philosophy that shows the strengths and weakness of each. The LLC Board now feels comfortable to pass this information on to ministers and give them time to become acquainted with the translations and share their feedback. We plan to include this in the 2021 Ministers Camp Agenda for broader discussion.

Eric Jurmu—Christian Education

With the current LLC office reorganization, Christian Education work has been divided among the Mission and Communications areas. During this transition year, we will not give an actual Christian Education report.

Matt Keranen—Communications

The Publications Department has expanded slightly to encompass some new areas, including areas of Christian education, and is now the Communications Department. Much of the same work will be done, but there will be opportunities to also focus on new and emerging areas of work. Communications has been organized into four areas: print publications, digital publications, music, and education. The work is also evolving based on the fact that we will have staff changes this year and new positions which will be filled.

The Operating Plan mentions marketing, which refers not to dollars, but rather reaching fellow believers and making them aware of what products and faith-life resources are available. Funds from product sales are used to further all areas of work. We are mindful of the fact that this area of work with sales and revenue is gospel work. We need to find what products people want and need and what forms and

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platforms we can use for distribution.

Goals for 2021:

Print publications: Improve the quality of periodicals and improve distribution to international customers. Plan is to produce an Easter publication, similar in scope to *Christmas in Zion,* but smaller.

Digital publications: There is a need and desire for digital communication to benefit our mutual congregation and individual life. Video content includes camp updates and Operating Plan, and also the Sunday School lessons which were produced this spring during the pandemic. This summer marks 20 years since the Summer Services have been broadcast online. A new area of work this year is a streaming broadcast. There are also many requests for broadcasts and audio content that can be listened to on demand. We will continue this area of work as we are given resources and guidance and leadership from the board of directors. There are requests for audio books and *Voice of Zion* archives.

Education: We are looking to implement an age-specific youth camp program, and also consider how to reach youth who are past confirmation age.

Music: Recording projects are currently on hold due to COVID-19, they will resume as possibilities allow. Plans are to hold an international music camp in 2021.

Publications Workshop: A Publications Workshop is scheduled for October 2–4 at Stony Lake Camp. This dual-track event will focus not only on writing gifts, but also on publications management—how to make projects possible and go forward relying on gifts and skills from believers. Hope is that member congregations will participate in the workshop by sending some to participate and bring thoughts back to the local area.

Eric Jurmu—Administration

The Board has assigned Keith Waaraniemi to work on an AALC/LLC 50-year history book project with plans to publish it in 2023. This, as well as upcoming staff retirements of Helen Hillukka and Lori Loukusa has resulted in a reorganization of the work. The 4 areas of work—Mission, Pastoral, Publications, and Christian Education—have been combined into two main areas, Mission and Communications. Jon Bloomquist and Adrian Pirness are co-directors of the mission area, which will include pastoral, confirmation, and domestic and foreign mission work. Matt Keranen will direct the communications department, which will include publications, youth camps and youth work. With the foreign mission fields closed at this time and much of the everyday work is on hold, replacement for Helen will be advertised at a later time. In the meantime, part-time administrative help will be provided for Jon and Adrian. With Lori's retirement approaching, a full-time editor position is now being advertised with plans for an August 1 hiring date. Kathy Laho has moved to the communications area and will take over Brita Fredrickson's duties with the *Shepherd's Voice*, among others. The LLC Board approved hiring a full-time Facilities Manager to take the responsibilities of the current camp directors, Adam Wuollet, Peter Kuopus, and Mike Glynn. This manager will work with camp boards on curriculum, scheduling, overseeing the physical properties, and also oversee the Silver Springs property and development committee. Advertising for this position will happen in July with a fall start date.

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We are thankful that God has preserved unity and love among the employees and given willing and able gifts to serve. We have experienced that God gives gifts which are needed for the work, even without our asking.

Elizabeth Juntunen—Finance

The 2021 budget is a break-even budget of 2.5 million. We anticipate a slight increase in membership and participation in dues and are not recommending a dues increase.

The 2019 financial statements show income of $2.4 million and expenses of $2.39 million, giving a net income of $32,000. Loan principal payments of $81,900 were made. The balance sheet shows cash and receivables at the end of the year of $386,000, adequate for starting the 2020 year. Non-operating funds received are designated for foreign facilities, camp facility improvements, and humanitarian aid.

Fixed assets are noted at the purchased price and are not adjusted to market value. Long-term debt of $954,000 is for the loans at Kamp Kipa and Silver Springs, and Stony Lake expansion. The Kipa loan will be paid off in 2020.

Jim Frantti—Conclusion

Looking back at our history of nearly 50 years, the first year of operation in 1974 the budget was under $20,000. Last year it was $2.4 million, and next year's budget is $2.5 million. The amazing thing is not the budget amount itself, but the fact that we end with a balanced budget. God has given His children the heart to do and support the work. Delegates, please bring our thanks back to your congregations for the way believers have supported the work, and we ask for your continued prayers.

The meeting took a lunch break at 11:55 and resumed at 12:40 with Dave Keranen serving as chairman.

Discussion / Delegate Input:

- Delegates brought support from their congregations for the Operating Plan.
- Support for the work of the LLC Board and Staff was expressed by many delegates.
- Concern was expressed about impact on the budget due to COVID-19. Elizabeth responded: Although some congregations have not been able to pay the full dues amount, expenses have been lower due to cancellations of camps and foreign mission trips. There is currently no urgency to make budget adjustments, but the situation will be monitored through the summer months and communication sent if we need to make changes.
- Delegates expressed support for retaining the current dues amount to help keep a balanced budget as expenses have grown with increases in the work, aging facilities, and getting Silver Springs ready for Summer Services.
- The video format for the Operating Plan is very appreciated by congregations.
- Thanks, were expressed for mission work in remote areas.

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Support for 2021 LLC Draft Operating Plan:

Action item: Approve 2019 financial statements

Action item: Approve 2021 proposed budget

Seattle delegate Brent Mattila made a motion to approve the 2019 Financial Statement and 2021 proposed budget. Williston delegate Aaron Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Item 6: 2021 Membership Dues

"Member congregations are obligated to pay the annual membership fee determined by the members or their Delegates at the Annual Meeting of the LLC" (LLC Bylaws, Article II, Section 1). The dues obligation is a congregation obligation, and congregations use a variety of methods to collect funds from their individual members.

Locally established dues guidelines cover both the LLC dues and the needs of the local congregation. It is a common practice to set a minimum dues level to be a congregation voting member, along with a recommended dues level to cover both local and LLC commitments.

The LLC established practice is that the local congregations pay LLC dues based on the number of voting members reported at their local congregation annual meeting. It is much appreciated that some congregations have even been able to pay LLC dues based on the number of adults, 18 years and over, regardless of local congregation membership.

Current Dues:
- $34 (USD) per member per month, $408 per member per year
- Student: 50% of the above membership dues

LLC Board recommendation: The Board recommends no dues increase for 2021. (Note: The Kamp Kipa loan will be paid off in 2020. Membership approved a $1/member/month increase, effective January 2012, to cover the loan. The 2021 budget as proposed does not adjust for a decrease in dues. If the congregations wish to decrease the dues by $1/member/month an adjusted budget will be prepared to reflect the change.)

The current dues rate was approved by the July 6, 2019, Annual Meeting and became effective January 1, 2020.

Discussion:
The funds from the $1 dues noted above will be used to help keep a balanced budget as expenses have grown with increases in the work, aging facilities, and getting Silver Springs ready for Summer Services.

Decision:

Toronto delegate Jukka Niemi made a motion to approve the membership dues, seconded by Phoenix delegate Bill Skoog. Motion passed.

Item 7: Election of LLC Board Members

Terms of the following LLC Board Members are due to expire in 2020:

Western	**Ken Wuollet**
At-Large	**Carey Simonson**
Midwestern area	**Randall Herrala**
Midwestern Area	**Duane Pirness**
Midwestern Area	**Sam Roiko**

At-Large Positions: By decision of the LLC Board of Directors at its July 4, 2019, meeting, each At-Large Board position will remain assigned to its current LLC area.

Discussion:

Phoenix delegate Keith Hillukka expressed full support from the southwest area for Ken Wuollet to continue serving.

Saskatoon delegate Wendy Simonson presented the Midwestern Area support for nominations of Dean Simonson and Rick Nevala as replacements for retiring Board members Duane Pirness and Randy Herrala. The meeting also supported nominations of Carey Simonson and Sam Roiko to another term.

Decision:

Minneapolis delegate Tim Lahti made a motion to approve the board nominations of Ken Wuollet, Carey Simonson, Sam Roiko, Rick Nevala and Dean Simonson, seconded by Rockford delegate Nealen Jurmu. Motion passed.

Jim Frantti thanked Randy Herrala and Duane Pirness for their years of service and wished them God's blessings in the years to come. Jim also welcomed Rick Nevala and Dean Simonson to the work with prayers that God will give them the heart and mind to serve humbly as they have been asked.

Item 8: Future Summer/Winter Services

2021 Eastern, Marquette, MI	July 1-4, 2021
2022 Midwestern, Northern MN, Silver Springs	July 1-4, 2022 (Fri-Mon)
2023 Western, Longview, TBD	June 29 - July 2, 2023

2024 Midwestern, Monticello, Silver Springs	July 4-7, 2024
2025 Midwestern, Saskatchewan, TBD	July 3-6, 2025
2026 Midwestern, Elk River, Silver Springs	July 2-5, 2026
2027 Eastern, Toronto, TBD	July 1-4, 2027

The Board asks that all requests for hosting Summer Services be submitted to the LLC Board in writing. In turn, the Board will coordinate these requests and suggest the location of Summer Services to the Annual Meeting for the coming years.

When this year's Summer Services were changed to an online format, the schedule for future services was moved ahead one year. However, the 50-year anniversary of AALC/LLC organization will fall in 2023 and plans are to release the history book at that time. The original schedule had 2023 Summer Services at Silver Springs due to the proximity of the office and plans for a special program. We are now considering moving 2023 Services back to Silver Springs. Eric Jurmu will contact Longview, Menahga and Monticello about rearranging the schedule to accommodate this plan.

Informational: Year 2021Events

2021 LLC Phoenix Winter Services – March 18–21, 2021
2021 LLC Summer Services (Marquette, MI) – July 1–4, 2021

Item 9: Reports from Delegates

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

• Evening devotions, started due to COVID-19 restrictions, have been well received, comforting, and the wish is that they continue. The goal is to have them archived on the LLC website under the Evening Devotions button.
• Consider moving the Summer Services a week later due to heavy traffic and high hotel costs on the July 4th weekend. Congregations may submit thoughts on alternative dates.
• Consider lessons and resources for youth camps, Sunday school, and support to parents in teaching about courtship and marriage to their children to counter the lifestyles and behaviors that are being taught in the public-school system at younger ages.
• Confirmation School registration—consider priority registration for students in the local congregations before it opens up to others, to assist those who are not able to travel due to finances or timing.
• In response to a request that LLC not schedule ministers for Easter, explanation was given that local congregations schedule ministers for special services and can feel free to not invite ministers for Easter services.
• A request for an app like Spotify, with a monthly subscription fee, which would play SRK and LLC music. This is on the Communications Department radar.
• Explore a suggestion from Phoenix congregation to add the Creed to the communion rites. This will go to the LLC Pastoral Committee for discussion.

• Sexual abuse policy update—a policy and framework for implementation and training was presented to the LLC Board on Thursday. A template will be developed for local congregations to use in developing their conduct policies.

Item 10: Adjournment, Closing

Meeting adjourn time and motion: Rockford delegate Andrew Skoog made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rockford delegate Doug Forstie. Motion approved, at 2:10 CDT.
Closing prayer and Benediction: George Koivukangas.
Closing hymn: SHZ #331 *The Lord, my God, be praised!*

Congregation name	Delegates Allowed	Alternates	Delegate Name	Date notified LLC	Sign in 2020
Alaska	2		Aaron Kuopus	5/30/20	✓
			Bryce Ojalehto	5/30/20	✓
		Alternate	Chad Doran	5/30/20	
		Alternate	Tory Fredrickson	5/30/20	
Brainerd	1		Jon Lee	5/27/20	✓
		Alternate	Levi Lee	5/27/20	
Coastal California	1		Jon Jurmu	6/1/20	✓
Cokato	3		Travis Simonson	5/12/20	✓
			Anthony Janckila	5/12/20	✓
			Mike Forstie	5/12/20	✓
		Alternate	Travis Byman	5/12/20	
		Alternate	Eric Mattila	5/12/20	
		Alternate	Erik Wuollet	5/12/20	
Detroit	1		Chuck Honkala	6/8/20	✓
		Alternate	Jeff Kumpula	6/8/20	
Dunblane group?	3		Lionel Ylioja	5/31/20	✓
			Roger ylioja	5/31/20	
			Vaughn Haapala	5/31/20	
		Alternate	Davin Ylioja	5/31/20	✓
		Alternate	John Simonson	5/31/20	✓
Elk River	3		Nate Loukusa	5/26/20	✓
			Ben Huhta	5/26/20	✓
			Paul Wuollet	5/26/20	✓
		Alternate	Kevin Moll	5/26/20	
		Alternate	Andrew Jurmu	5/26/20	
		Alternate	Brian Johnson	5/26/20	
Flagstaff	1		Ben Forstie	6/15/20	
		Alternate	Josh Makela	6/15/20	
Flathead Valley	1		Kaleb Jurmu	6/1/20	✓

		Alternate	Connor Simonson	6/1/20	
Gillette	1		Troy Johnson	6/3/19	
Glendale	3		Paul Lindula	6/1/20	✓
			Robby Simonson	6/1/20	✓
			Mo Pirness	6/1/20	✓
		Alternate	Ryan Kumpula	6/1/20	
		Alternate	Ryan Wuollet	6/1/20	
		Alternate	Chris Smith	6/1/20	
Illinois	1		Tim Niskanen	6/2/20	✓
		Alternate	Christine Niskaner	6/2/20	
Ishpeming	2		Mike Kuopus	6/1/20	✓
			Brian Kuopus	6/1/20	✓
		Alternate	Duane Wisuri	6/1/20	
Lethbridge	1		Matthew Ylioja	5/19/20	✓
		Alternate	Jason Simonson	5/19/20	
Longview	3		John Lahti	6/10/20	✓
			Michael Huhta	6/10/20	✓
			Brian Jurvakainen	6/10/20	✓
Menahga group	3		Neil Waaraniemi	5/24/20	✓
			Leslie Ylitalo	5/24/20	✓
			Dave Keranen	5/24/20	✓
		Alternate	Mark Haataja	5/24/20	
		Alternate	Josh Byman	5/24/20	
Minneapolis	3		Josh Ylitalo	5/25/20	✓
			Barb Lever	5/25/20	✓
			Tim Lahti	5/25/20	✓
		Alternate	Mike Jurmu	5/25/20	
		Alternate	Gary Wuollet	5/25/20	
		Alternate	Aaron Kariniemi	5/25/20	
Monticello group	3		Brandon Jurmu	5/14/20	✓
			Aaron Laho	5/14/20	✓
			Logan Oja	5/14/20	✓
		Alternate	Jon Juntunen	5/14/20	

		Alternate	Mark Kiviahde	5/14/20	
		Alternate	Josh Fuller	5/14/20	
North Sound	1		Dennis Niemela	6/2/20	✓
		Alternate	Jason Bowen	6/2/20	
Outlook group?	3		Rick Haapala	5/26/20	✓
			Shane Simonson	5/26/20	✓
			Jay Simonson	5/26/20	✓
		Alternate	Justin Haapala	5/26/20	
		Alternate	Kyle ylioja	5/26/20	
		Alternate	Levi Haapala	5/26/20	
Pelkie	1		Roy Pikkarainen	6/1/20	
		Alternate	Paul Waaraniemi	6/1/20 ?	✓
Phoenix	3	attended	Keith Hillukka	5/12/20	✓
			Bill Skoog	5/12/20	✓
			Deron Simonson	5/12/20	
Prescott Valley	2		Darren Moll	5/19/20	✓
			James Moll	5/19/20	✓
		Alternate	Russell Johnson	5/19/20	
		Alternate	Mike Stonelake	5/19/20	
Roaring Fork Valley	3		Ken Janckila	5/29/20 ?	✓
			Keith Wittenberg	5/29/20	✓
			Brent Herrala	5/29/20	✓
		Alternate	Tom Jurmu	5/29/20	
		Alternate	Eric Jurmu	5/29/20	
		Alternate	Ian Byman	5/29/20	
Rockford	3		Andrew Skoog	5/14/20	✓
			Doug Forstie	5/14/20	✓
			Nealen Jurmu	5/14/20	✓
		Alternate	Robert Loukusa	5/14/20	
		Alternate	Keith Laho	5/14/20	
		Alternate	Mike Kariniemi	5/14/20	
Rolla	1		Cherie Belgarde	5/29/20	✓
		Alternate	Bonnie Bercier	5/29/20	

Saskatoon	2		Wendy Simonson	5/14/20	✓
			Nicholas Simonson	5/14/20	
Seattle	3		Brent Mattila	5/21/20	✓
			Evan Niemela	5/21/20	
			Tyler Kautz	5/1/20	✓
		Alternate	Jeremy Lake	5/21/20	
		Alternate	Harley (Skip) Lang	5/21/20	✓
Spokane -group	3		Braden Lever	5/29/20	✓
			Craig Niemela	5/29/20	✓
			David Johnson	5/29/20	✓
Toronto	3		Pekka Niemi	6/1/20	✓
			Jari Pigg	6/1/20	
			Jukka Niemi	6/1/20	✓
		Alternate	Seppo Heilimo	6/1/20	
		Alternate	Ari Mujunen	6/1/20	
Ulster Park, Bethel	1		Nathan Aho	6/30/19	
		Alternate	Heidi Aho	6/30/19	
West Barnstable	1		Bill Rasku	5/29/20	
Williston	2		Aaron Anderson	5/29/20	✓
			Paul Herrala	5/29/20	✓
		Alternate	Adam Lampi	5/29/20	
		Alternate	Drew McEleney	5/29/20	
Wolf Lake	2		Hans Grangroth	6/1/20	
			Bruce Johnson	6/1/20	
		Alternate	Michael Lake	6/1/20	

Total membership: 3401

Total delegates: **70**

Mtg attendance: 62 #REF!

Laestadian Lutheran Congregations of Ecuador

Greetings from the Ecuador Congregations to our brethren in North America

"that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; to the end that ye, being rooted and grounded in love," Ephesians 3:17

Receive a brotherly and warm greeting from all the believers that are part of the Laestadian Lutheran congregations of Ecuador. We embrace you in the peace of God.
Jesus, died for all of our sins and gifted us life eternal. We can only receive this gift through faith. All our actions, thoughts and expressions in our daily life should be part of what the gospel teaches us, loving and respecting our brethren as ourselves. Today, more than ever, we need the love of our parents, children, grandchildren, and brethren.

Everyday, we should go out looking for our "treasure hidden in the field", the kingdom of heaven, that we through faith can obtain the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, we must reject worldly life and greed and draw closer to God and His kingdom. Living joyfully with God will be the best gift that we could give our families, the best treasure will be to see each other again together with Him.

We promise to remember you all in our prayers and we ask that you would do the same for your brothers and sisters in faith here in Ecuador.

God's Peace,

Milton Martinez, Chairman (Riobamba Congregation)
Alex Panizo, Treasurer, (Quito Congregation)
Mario Mite, Trustee (Guayaquil Congregation)

ELLT 2020 LLC Summer Services Greetings

Grace unto you, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Coronavirus surged in the world. In December the news has smoothly started from China through media. Two months later the virus reached Europe, and North and South American countries. Africa as well as Australia are not left untouched. Today more than 500, 000 peoples lost their life. Many thousands are not yet recovered. During the confinement, due to the rules to avoid the virus, millions of people lost their jobs. People cannot gather together. So it also is for believers over the world.

This period of time reminds us of what happened in the time of the Prophet Isaiah when God spoke to His children:

Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment,until the indignation be overpast" (Isa. 26:20). When Jesus was arrested, condemned, crucified and died on the cross, the disciples in fear were confined in the house. But when He appeared to them, peace and joy overflowed their hearts. So it was in the time of Pentecost! The message of forgiveness of sins was preached and it brought peace, joy, and strength.

So, brothers and sisters in faith, in this period of summer services where we cannot serve together, though we Togo believers are far from you, we want to assure you with that same gospel to believe all sins forgiven in Jesus' name and blood. We feel close and tighter and want to thank you for your spiritual support and the material support that comes through the Humanitarian Aid Committee. Those donations are extremely valuable in our life and in this context. Carrying you in our prayers without ceasing we ask you to remember us too! When the time of indignation has passed we will meet again!

God's peace,

Togo ELLT BOARD.

Greetings from the Laestadian Lutheran Church of Ghana (LLCG)

God's peace

'The pathway of a child of God goes through a wilderness, yet every moment closer home it leads me nonetheless'

We the believers in Ghana extend our warm greetings to all the believers who are participating in this year's summer services. It is true that the events of the COVID-19 have created some difficulty for children of God to the extent that this annual event which brings together large number of believers where they share love, feed their souls with the word of God and above all hear and believe the gospel of forgiveness of sin in Jesus' name and precious blood will be missing this year.

BUT we believe that the blood of Jesus gives peace and washes all sins away, therefore even though you would have wished to meet each other shake hands and greet each other with the peace of God it is enough that you can hear the Word of God using technology which is also a gift from God.

We will share every moment with you virtually and we believe that special blessing will flow from this summer service despite the limitations.

God's peace

On behalf of LLCG

Joseph Kuse, Chairman

George Emerson Dodzidenu, Secretary

REFORMED LUTHERAN CHURCH OF RWANDA

R.L.C - Rwanda

COUNTRY OF RWANDA
PROVINCE: EASTERN
DISTRICT: NYAGATARE

Postal Office Address:
84 Nyagatare, Rwanda

Tel: +250 078 366 5403
+250 078-867 1413

Office of the Church.

25th June, 2020

Re: Greetings to the LLC 2020 Summer Services.

Dear brothers and sisters in faith, God's peace!

All the believers in Rwanda greet all the believers with God's love and peace.

We are in this difficult time of COVID-19. These particular days for Summer Services, are very important, because we as disciples of Jesus Christ, will hear His words, experience and strengthen our faith, and share our values as believers.
"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD" (Psalm 122:1).

Nowadays, things are more and more difficult. COVID-19 has killed many people around the World. The temptations are everywhere. But we as people of God don't worry anymore because the grace that we received from God by Jesus Christ through the forgiveness of sins is the greatest, and it gives us power to stand against the enemy's plan to lead us away from the kingdom of God.

We must be wise and always trust in the forgiveness of sins so that our Heavenly Father may make us perfect. Even though we are not together because of this Pandemic, and meeting online during this event, we continue believing that we have one common Holy Spirit who will give words to preach and will open hearts to believe.

We would like to take this opportunity to tell you of our gratefulness to all believers around the world for keeping us in your prayers and also for the humanitarian assistance you gave to us. God bless you. Truly we appreciate you very much. Thank you.

May God bless you and God bless the Laestadian Lutheran Church!

God's peace!

Pastor Jean Claude Maniragaba, Church President
Alphonse RURANGWA, Secretary

Reformed Lutheran Church of Rwanda
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