



EXCELSIOR UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

2020 ANNUAL
REPORT

LOVING BEYOND OURSELVES

A LETTER FROM PASTOR BROOKE

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you.” - Phillipians 1:3-4

There have been so many occasions over the past year where I have found myself giving thanks for you and for this faith community. 2020 has been a year of great struggle and challenge for our whole world. Yet it has also been a year where you’ve reminded me how powerful it is to work towards a common mission in community. You’ve demonstrated how hope can’t be cancelled because you are determined to live it out. You’ve continued to reach out to others by adapting to an ever-changing world. You’ve shown me how resilient and committed you are to loving beyond yourselves. When life got hard, you loved harder. When life filled people with anxiety and stress, you filled their lives with food and connection. When life was isolating, you drew closer to one another. You have been the balm that our aching world has needed, for each other and for our neighbors. Thank you.

When I think back over all that we’ve experienced and lived and accomplished over the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride. When I think of the future and what the next few years will look like, I am filled with gratitude and pride. We are well-positioned to continue making a difference in Excelsior. There is nothing that life can throw our way that will keep us from living out our mission to build community, serve others, and stand for justice. This year has been proof that we are able and willing to respond to God’s call for us. May the following pages remind you of the impact of our ministry and the importance each one of you plays in fulfilling it. With my deepest gratitude,

Pastor Brooke





BUILDING COMMUNITY

The power of community has never been more clear or obvious than this year. As a faith community, we found new ways to build connections with one another. Our worship services and faith studies have allowed us to reach new people we never could have involved before we went virtual—spreading to Arizona, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Florida, and Washington, to name a few. Small groups, Bible studies, and our youth met for walks, on ZOOM, at farms, backyards, patios, parking lots, and garages.

Each week, we have between 30 and 50 people gathering in virtual or social-distancing groups. Our youth have met in the parking lot to play Scattergories and our Saturday men's group doubled the frequency they meet with one another. Members have extended their invitation to neighbors to join us for our small groups, community service, and social justice work. We held three worship services outside, bringing together the newborns and the seasoned members. A family bike and pizza night brought the generations together on a beautiful night.

Our whole directory was covered in phone calls and cards. Online, you frequently shared your prayer requests and prayed for each other. The tools and formats that we use look a lot different than a year ago, but the spirit is strong. Our lives are better for the connections and relationships we have formed and strengthened.



SERVING OTHERS

“I believe that appreciation is a holy thing...So in loving and appreciating our neighbor, we’re participating in something sacred.” - Fred Rogers

The Outreach Committee continues to adapt to 2020! We started off the year with our monthly free Community lunches, until we had to cancel due to Covid. We continue to support Simpson Shelter financially each month. Our partnership with ICA is still going strong, our food shelf is open twice per month and continues to grow. As the need became greater with all of the Covid hardships, we turned our Little Free Library into a Little Free Pantry last March and have kept it constantly stocked thanks to all of your generous donations!

During our food shelf day in September, we gave away backpacks and school supplies. We had a great turn out when we filled gift bags for the teachers at Excelsior Elementary as a thank you for all they do! Our annual trunk or treat event was extra cold, but fun and safe:) For the first time this year, we will be a turkey dinner pick up sight for ICA. We’re hoping to once again finish off the year giving Christmas gifts to His House families. This church family is amazingly kind and generous and continues to step up to help our neighbors in need!



STANDING FOR JUSTICE

The Social Justice Ministry Team focused on racial justice and climate issues in 2020.

With a goal of reducing our carbon footprint, the team worked to ensure that a large percentage of church waste products are recycled or composted. EUMC is a certified Climate Justice congregation and a charter member of the West Interfaith Climate Hub.

We also led our solar panel project, with solar panels set to be installed by mid-December on the church roof.

In light of recent protests for racial justice this year, the team charged a sub-group to delve into racial injustice and white privilege. The group invited the congregation to:

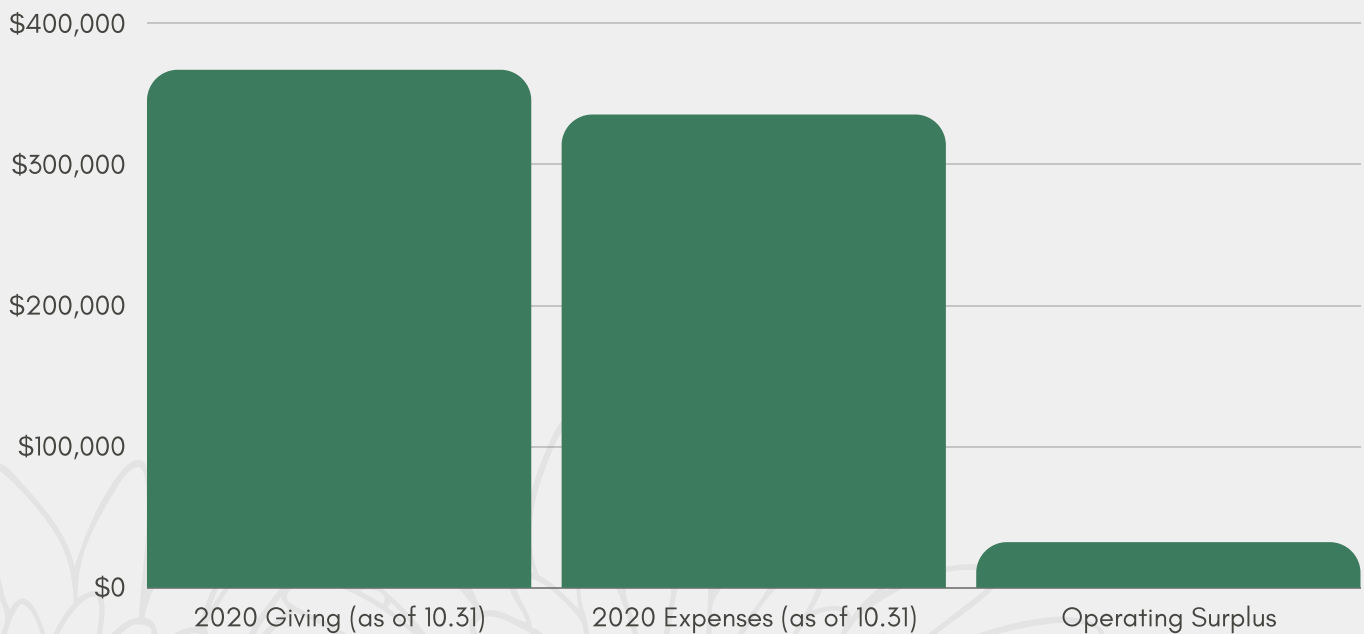
Learn about white privilege and systemic racism,
Reflect on our role in the racist systems in our Country, State and Nation, and Act by creating a plan for racial justice action. The group also:

- Wrote a Declaration for Racial Justice committing EUMC to work toward healing racial inequity
- Compiled resources to share with the congregation
- Helped survey the congregation regarding race
- Encouraged EUMC members to participate in discussions about race
- Provided resources for our Black Lives Matter Sunday in October, and hosted an online discussions after all of the October worship service
- Promoted EUMC's purchase our United Methodists Stand Against Racism banner

In 2020, EUMC, in partnership with Trinity Episcopal Church of Excelsior and Mt. Calvary Lutheran, founded the West Interfaith Community Engagement group. Over 20 church, synagogue, mosque, and local non-profit organizations share resources, information, and coordinate efforts.

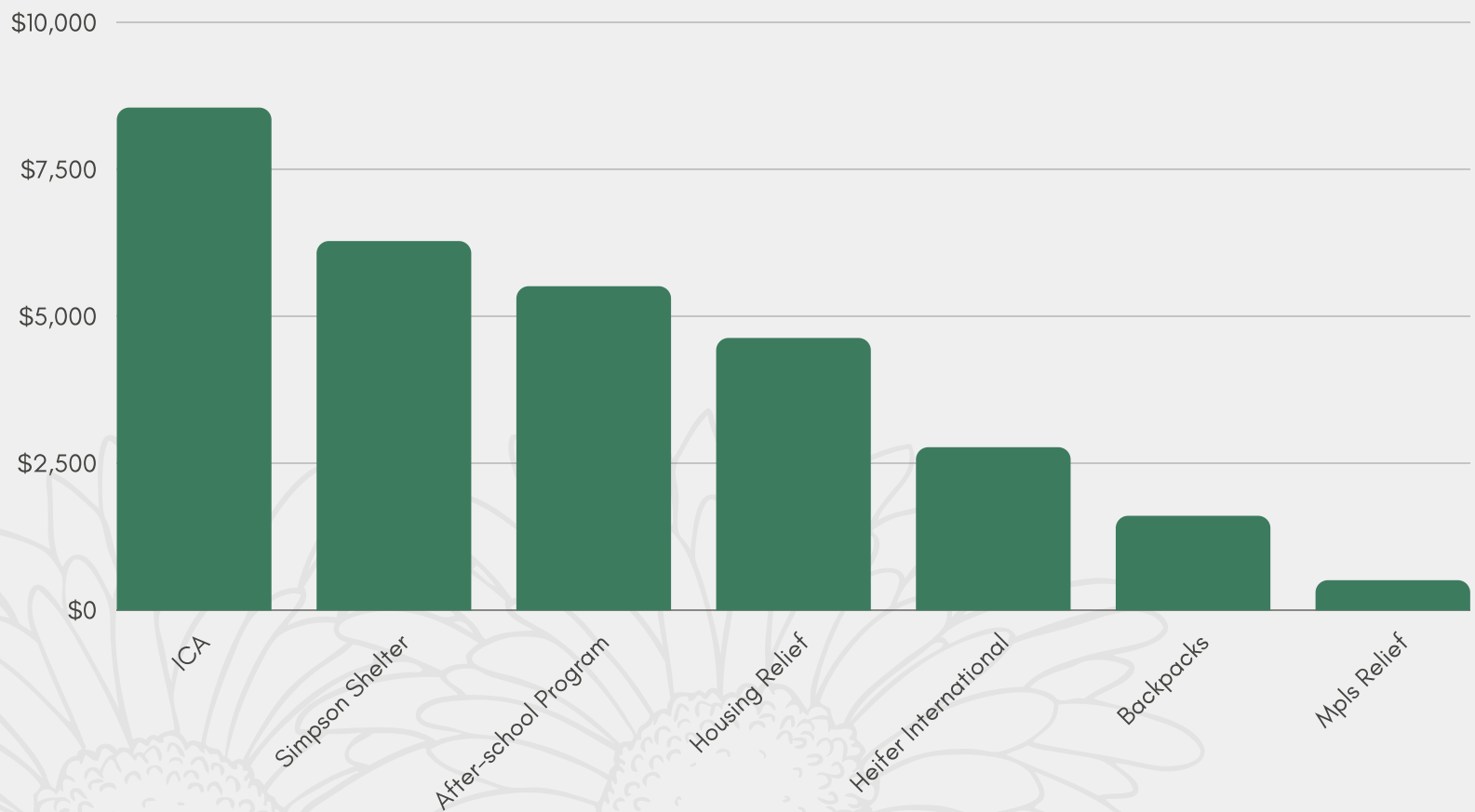
For more info, visit excelsiorumc.org/socialjustice





A NOTE ON OUR 2020 BUDGET

We are grateful now, as always, for your continued support! 2020 has been a turbulent year for all of us, but your faith and generosity have allowed our church to love beyond ourselves in so many ways. Notably, we've maintained an operating surplus this year, while still directing significant funding to various ministries and partner organizations.



OUTREACH GIVING

Your financial support in 2020 has been outstanding. In addition to all of the ministries of our church, we have directly contributed toward to:

- ICA Foodshelf
- Simpson Shelter
- The After-school Program hosted in our basement
- Housing Relief for families who lost work due to Covid-19
- Heifer International
- Backpacks and school supplies for children in the community
- Food and Diapers for families in Minneapolis during the summer



881 Third Ave, Excelsior MN 55331

Non-Profit Organization
Permit No. 39
Excelsior, Minnesota
U.S. Postage Paid

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

More information:

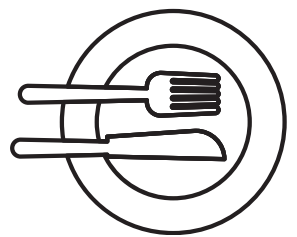
www.excelsiorumc.org



106 Average
Worship
Attendees
and 65 New
Visitors



24 States and
4 Countries
Reached with
Virtual Worship



Thousands of
Pounds of Food
Served from
our Food Shelf

Excelsior UMC Estimate of Giving

As you prepare your gift for 2021...

- Set aside time to talk with your family about your giving honestly and openly.
- Calculate the percentage of your income that you gave in 2020. Knowing where your giving stands will help you make goals in the future.
- Consider increasing your giving to help support expanding our programs and ministries!

The easiest way to indicate your Estimate, is to visit excelsiorumc.org/give. Please consider filling out our online form. Otherwise, please mail this form to the church.

Proportional Giving examples: Annual / Weekly			
annual income	~2%	~4%	6%+
\$ 20,000	\$400 / \$8	\$800 / \$15	\$1,200 / \$23
\$ 40,000	\$800 / \$15	\$1,600 / \$30	\$2,000 / \$60
\$ 60,000	\$1,200 / \$23	2,400 / \$45	\$3,600 / \$70
\$ 90,000	\$1,800 / \$35	\$3,600 / \$70	\$5,400 / \$100
\$ 115,000	\$2,300 / \$45	\$4,600 / \$90	\$6,900 / \$130
\$ 150,000	\$3,000 / \$60	\$6,000 / \$115	\$9,000 / \$170
\$ 200,000	\$4,000 / \$75	\$8,000 / \$155	\$12,000 / \$230

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Name

Address (if new):

Email address:

Phone Number:

☐ **Update my current EFT**
(Automatic Monthly Withdrawal)
continues until I/we direct a change

☐ **Start a New EFT** (Automatic Monthly Withdrawal)
Please attach a Voided Check
____Monthly ____Semi-Monthly

☐ **Contribute by other methods**
(check, cash, stock transfers, or with credit
card online at www.excelsiorumc.org/give)

I have included EUMC in my will
and estate planning. ☐

I am interested in more information
about donating stock, donating from
my IRA (tax free), or Legacy giving. ☐
Please contact me.

*Our goal is a response from every
member and friend. Thank you for your
gifts and response! God's blessings to you!*

Name

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