

## OUR HISTORY — OUR STORY — 1991 to 2016

The twenty-five years since the last anniversary celebration have brought so many changes to Cameron Emmanuel Lutheran Church! Babies have been born; people have died; pastors have come and gone; worship numbers and program participants and budgets and committees have risen and fallen. But through it all our mission statement says who we are:

*“We are a community of faith  
celebrating the sacraments  
and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*Our mission is to proclaim the Word of God  
through worship, sacraments, education and fellowship;*

*To reach out with love and compassion  
and serve the needs of the community and world.”*

May God grant us the grace and the will to continue with this mission for the next 125 years!

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The purpose of this short history is to give the highlights of the last twenty-five years. This will skim the most important actions and events, and give an idea of what has happened in the congregation over the years.

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### **Worship**

Worship at Cameron has always been the pivot-point of our existence. And how it has changed in the last 25 years! An official Worship Committee was listed for the first time on the agenda of the annual meeting of January 10, 1982, and the first written record of committee activities was in the annual report of January 15, 1984. That year the committee proposed a new policy concerning the selection and duties of ushers that was adopted by the church council; they were also proposing policies concerning the conduct of weddings. They were encouraging more use of lay people in worship services, made recommendations on dates and content of special services, and assisted in planning of regular services on such items as what worship setting to use. They were always interested in any congregational input and evaluation of worship. The committee still does many of these same things, and is ready to listen to any ideas or criticisms from the congregation.

A major function that the committee has assumed over the last several years is to assist the pastor in hymn selections for services, choosing hymns that are appropriate for the liturgical season and lessons for a particular Sunday. The guidance of the Holy Spirit has always been sought before selections are made, and it's amazing how well He has helped them pick the perfect song out of the hundreds available!

In the late 1990s several different sources of new hymns were considered, and often these hymns were from books that had only a few copies available. What to do? There were huge fines for reprinting copyrighted songs without specific permission from the copyright holder, and getting this permission was a time-consuming and maybe even expensive option. Discussions of purchasing copyright licenses was begun which would allow these hymns to be reprinted in the bulletin. It was recorded that in 2000 a "One" copyright license was purchased which would cover most of the sources the church wanted to use, and these licenses have remained in continuous use since that time.

Cameron has had a rainbow of hymnals over the last 25 years. In 1991, the green hymnal, *The Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW), was used almost exclusively, and it contained the only liturgy used. In 1994 the tired and worn-out old *Youth Favorites* was replaced with new (and blue) *Praise* hymnal which contained many old favorite gospel songs. A new liturgy called *Now the Feast* was introduced that same year, and it has been used alternately with LBW or ELW worship ever since. In 2000 the lovely *Holden Evening Prayer* was introduced for Lenten services, and has been used more or less continuously since then during Lent.

Then in 2006 new red (or crimson or scarlet, depending on who is asked!) hymnals were ordered. This book is the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal, and it was put into use at Cameron in February, 2007. This hymnal had a learning curve to it, because besides many old favorites, it contained hymns from several other cultures, some alternative tunes to old favorites, some newly minted hymns written especially for this hymnal, and some contemporary songs from other sources. There are nearly 900 songs in the book (plus ten liturgical settings), giving a lot of choice!

Worship services currently alternate between the ELW liturgy on the first two Sundays of the month, and *Now the Feast* on the third and fourth Sundays. If there is a fifth Sunday, the liturgy is pastor's choice and the hymns are chosen by the congregation. While Pastor Carol Nelson was here, the Communion schedule was changed a little. It had been held on the first and third Sundays of each month for some time, and this continued, with the addition of Communion each Sunday of Lent and Advent and on all Festival and Holy days. This is the schedule currently observed.

In 2000 the practice of the congregations singing hymns during Communion was begun, and in 2008 a call--to-worship song was added. This call to worship hymn is usually a reflection of the theme in the lessons or the church year, with a different verse of the same hymn for 3-5 Sundays. It is sung at the very beginning of the service, and is designed to quiet and focus people's minds on worship.

Worship did change over the years. Many changes were intentionally made, not to make worship more "fun" or more entertaining or less "boring," but to wake people up and attract new people to a life of faith. New contemporary music was introduced; new music and ideas were tried in the liturgy. Alternative service times were considered and tried in addition to the usual Sunday service at 11:00. One new addition to Lenten worship produced an Easter miracle, of sorts, when Pastor Carol asked Horst Reil to pot a large barren limb that had broken off one of the trees near the church yard.



Mind you, it was a large limb, which in the large bucket of rocks where Horst placed it, looked like a small tree. . It was placed in front of church near the choir and every Sunday during Lent we would see new items Carolyn Giese had added -- butterflies, birds, leaves; a gradual awakening. On Easter Sunday, this writer gazed at the tree thinking Carolyn had really outdone herself with all the additional leaves. But no! There had evidently been enough moisture in the rocks in the bucket, giving the barren limb enough energy to burst forth with leaves on queue for Easter.



Another Easter tradition for a time was using a cross Emil Silflow made from a fallen tree in the yard. It was displayed in front of church during Lent and on Easter morning it would be covered with a beautiful display of colors.



Some traditions had to change. Ruth Slind and Pat Holt had led worship on the organ and piano for many years, but as Ruth became unable to play because of health issues, it was discovered that the organ was also failing. This was in addition to the fact that no one really knew how to play it! Repairs were prohibitively expensive, and after continued attempts to sell it, it was declared “obsolete and without value” and given to Albert Lawrence in 2001. After Ruth passed away and Pat retired, the church accompanists have been Amy Lohman-Perry, Joanne Gertje, and Ann Taylor.

Meanwhile, in 1997, an electronic keyboard was purchased that the manufacturers proudly declared would make 128 different sounds, including several organ and piano settings. It could also pre-record accompaniments for soloists or hymns for worship services, especially for new songs not in the books the church used, and it could raise or lower the key of the song being played at the push of a button. It was often played along with the regular piano during special services such as Easter or Christmas, or when we wanted an “organ” to play.

Pastors over the last 25 years have included more and more lay--people helping with worship. Ushers are no longer “selected:” they are volunteers who sign up for that duty Sunday by Sunday, as are the greeters. Lay Communion assistants now offer the wine, either in small cups or in the chalice. This began after Communion was changed in 1994 to a continuous Communion format on the third Sundays, instead of separate tables served only by the pastor. In 2000, the continuous format was instituted at all Communion services. Children were encouraged - yeah, even asked! - to participate more through singing songs during the service, helping with the offering, lighting candles (no more official acolytes), putting up hymns on the board, and coming up for children’s sermons each Sunday. Children’s sermons were begun by Pastor Kunder on a weekly basis. These sermons continue as a

joyful, and sometimes highly entertaining, outreach to the children in the congregation. Around 2013 the formal practice of ushering the congregation out at the end of the service row by row was discontinued .

Adults were often asked to participate in skits for Sunday or Lenten worship or do occasional lay services when the pastor was gone. Pastor Kunder always asked someone to read alternate sections of the Prayer of the Church at the lectern, and for several years lay readers have read the first two lessons and led the reading of the Psalm.



For as long as most members could remember, Cameron had been a sister congregation with Zion Lutheran Church in Juliaetta, and had shared a pastor, pastoral expenses, and many activities, including committee memberships. For years Zion had had the early service, then the pastor came “up the hill” to preside at Cameron. This worked very well most of the time, unless Pastor stayed too long to enjoy Zion’s coffee hour or the grade was icy!

In 1994 Lenten services became joint services which would be held at each church on alternate weeks. Summer worship was held jointly during the summers (beginning 1992 as an experiment and adopted by the annual meeting in 1993), with the location alternating monthly between the churches.



Several joint activities have become tradition. Thanksgiving soup and sandwich suppers were begun in the 1990’s at Juliaetta, with the event held on the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week. The meal, which consisted of soups made by the Juliaetta women and sandwiches brought by Cameron, with stellar desserts provided by both churches, was followed by a worship service. This tradition continues now at Cameron. A notable Thanksgiving Soup and Service event occurred in 2015. It was an extremely foggy night and, if not for the white lines painted on the road, was totally impossi-

ble to gauge one’s location; without lines it couldn’t be determined if the car was even on the road, let alone finding the correct turn offs. Some missed the mark at Cameron and ended in Southwick and one poor soul was stuck and stranded in the middle of a muddy field until morning when daylight revealed their location up by the airstrip near the Schwarz place. She kept her feet dry and warm by wrapping them in the Depends she happened to be delivering for elder care and turned the car on intermittently throughout the night for warmth. It was a small group that shared the meal and service that evening, but one filled with thankful hearts that all who ventured out remained safe.



A joint outdoor worship service, first suggested in 1990, was held during the summers for many years at various locations including Dworshak and Bethany Chapel. After the park was built in Juliaetta services began to be held there each year because of the ease of parking, the luxury of the gazebo as shelter from the sun, and because there was an electrical outlet for the coffee pot! The service was usually planned for the last Sunday of August, and was followed by a potluck. Since Zion Lutheran Church dissolved in 2012 regular summer worship services have been held early on Sundays at Cameron, usually at 9:00 or 9:30 a.m.



## **Mutual Ministry Committee**

A Mutual Ministry committee was first discussed at Cameron in 1993 when Pastor Bob Kenyon helped redesign the Synod Mutual Ministry Committee. That committee was determined to need at least four functions: 1) dialoging with pastor, staff, and church members about expectations concerning each other; 2) interpreting and clarifying expectations for each other; 3) conflict resolution - finding places of conciliation and reconciliation; 4) annual reviews of pastor and staff. This committee was formed at Cameron, with its first formal report at the annual meeting of 2001.

During 2000 the church was in an active call process, and the Mutual Ministry Committee and Pastoral Call Committee met together for much of the year. Pastor Carol Nelson arrived in September, 2000, and met twice more with the Mutual Ministry Committee that year. The committee consisted of the pastor, five members from Cameron and two from Zion. Its stated goals were to share highlights and concerns, and to encourage and support each other. It acted as a sounding board for the pastor and offered advice and suggestions. The committee was also a liaison between the pastor and the congregation to communicate concerns and kudos. The committee was on hiatus in 2004, but was re-formed and began meeting again in 2005 to act as a “time to care for our servant-leader.” The committee met quarterly until 2008, when it met just once. The committee did not meet again after that time.

## **Outreach**

The first record of the Outreach Committee was in the annual report in 2000. It met monthly in 1999 and its concern was re-connecting with non-worshipping members and non-members who had previously attended services; to insure visitation and Communion to shut-ins; to identify new people in the community and extend invitations to worship; and to follow up on visitation contacts in the congregation. It was a joint committee with Zion, and the group met monthly. This committee has been responsible for many new programs over the years, each of which has reached out to a unique population.

While Pastor Carol Nelson was here the committee first discussed participation in the local food bank, which had already been in existence for several years. From there they began helping pack and distribute food baskets for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays in the year 2001. This is an

enormous undertaking, and getting larger every year as more and more families need these baskets in order to put a complete holiday meal on the table. Several Cameron members take turns helping “man the store” when the Food Bank is open each week. This involvement in the food bank has grown into something that residents from all over the area depend upon for needed food aid as well as a limited number of household items.

For years the food bank bounced from place to place, but now has found a permanent home in the basement of the Juliaetta Community Center (formerly Zion Lutheran Church.) The food bank receives commodities from the Lewiston Community Action Partnership, and food from the Idaho Food Bank pantry truck, which visits Juliaetta once a month. People can get vegetables, meat, eggs, and bread from the truck; whatever is left goes to the local food bank - now known as the Good Samaritan Food Bank. Good Samaritan Food Bank can also order items from the Idaho Food Bank. Milk is bought locally, and foods are also ordered in bulk during sales at grocery stores. Funding comes from donations from individuals and from many groups within the community, including groups and designated offerings at Cameron. There are also several sponsored food drives each year by groups such as 4-H clubs or student groups in the schools. Cameron members, along with other community volunteers, participate in this critical outreach year-round with their time and donations of money and goods.



About the same time that the committee began involvement in the food bank, they also began discussions about tentative plans for an after-school mentoring program. This program grew into Come-4-Fun, a program which had its first session in November, 2002. They met each Thursday at Zion Lutheran Church, whose members had made the required modifications to their basement in order to accommodate the children. Come-4-Fun was designed for students at Juliaetta Elementary

School who wanted to come for help with homework, some structured play time and activities, as well as a good after-school snack. There were usually 8-12 children in attendance each week, with as many as eighteen children registered. Gradually other activities were added, such as having people come to teach gardening skills, cooking, community service, and crafts. After a snack and homework, the kids were divided into groups to enjoy the skills sessions. At one point there were more than twenty children enrolled, with an average attendance of sixteen. Funding, snacks, and time were donations from individuals and groups; money was raised with donut and coffee sales at the Locust Blossom Festival, plus pie sales at the Blackberry Festival in Juliaetta.

Eventually Juliaetta Elementary received a large grant to begin its own after-school mentoring program, so Come-4-fun switched gears a little and became more of an after-school religious education program. They met monthly after school at the Community Center, with snacks, crafts, music, and Bible stories. As attendance was dropping, and it was becoming difficult to find staffing, it was decided to put the program on hold after the 2015-16 school year.

A popular program which began in 2004 was an outreach for a group of young adults - married or single - who met every other month at the parsonage. They would pick a theme for a potluck dinner then everyone would bring something that followed the theme. The group started with ten adults present, but as the years went by, more and more children were added as couples began their families, until it became a very lively group indeed, with sometimes over twenty adults and little people enjoying the food and conversation and fellowship. The group continued to meet for eight years.



Another activity sponsored by the Outreach Committee was a yearly Missionfest, with invited speakers from Nigeria, Egypt, Tanzania, Slovakia, and Young Adults in Global Mission coming to talk about their work and adventures. Cameron has continued to give support to specific missionaries every year. Currently, 2016 funds are being sent to aid two young people from our Synod who are spending a year with Young Adults in Global Mission: Savannah Phelan from Spokane, Washington, who is serving in Cambodia, and Kelly Lindahl, from Stanley, Idaho, who is serving in the United Kingdom. It is the hope that at some point after their return they will come to Cameron and tell the congregation about their experiences.

In 2008, Outreach did not meet, but Come-4-Fun and the Good Samaritan Food Bank work remained very much alive, with several people volunteering from Cameron in each group. In 2009 the committee re-formed, and has been active since then. Their focus is on the congregation and the community and how they can reach out and support both in the name of God. Several new programs were begun to both reach out to others and energize the congregation. The first was an event called Dessert and Devotions, which meets monthly in member's homes. The participants (and all are encouraged to join the group) meet at 7 p.m. on Sunday evenings with everyone bringing a snack food to share. There is a lot of talking and laughing and eating, then a 10-15 minute devotional given by the host. It is officially finished at 8 p.m., but sometimes the visiting goes on longer for those who choose to stick around!

A program which was first begun in 2001 by the Education Committee was a prayer-partnership between the adults in the congregation and the children whose families are active in church, or who may have visited, or who are children of inactive members. Congregational members pick a numbered envelope with the name(s) of their prayer-children, along with information about the child such as birth-date and baptismal date, as well as their addresses and parents' names. The member then prays for the child or children, perhaps sending birthday cards and other reminders that someone is praying for them. Then several months later at a Sunday service the names are revealed, and numbered envelopes containing the children's names are picked by new people, who then begin praying for their "new children." This has been an ongoing blessing for everyone - the members who are made aware of children they may not even know, and children who know someone is thinking of them and praying for them.



Monthly birthday party/coffee hours are being held after church, with the names of all the member-birthdays (active or not) being read at the end of the worship service. Just hearing the names of those who aren't attending is a good reminder to those in church that we have a lot of people who, while they don't attend church often, must be kept in our minds and our prayers, and our outreach continued to them. The Cantata, the bazaar, VBS, the Newsletter, and our own continued friendliness and prayer and invitation are all ways to do this.

## Education

In 2013 meeting dates became harder and harder to schedule, and since the members of the Outreach and the Education Committees overlapped, it was decided to merge the committees. The Education Committee over the years had been huge in planning Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, and providing for adult education. Until the mid-1980's the Sunday School had its own budget, which was supported by the children's offerings, a small amount from the church, and a rally Sunday offering.

In 1984 the superintendents felt it would be a valuable experience for the children to learn about stewardship by deciding on a project, then letting their money be spent on this project so they could follow through on the joys and benefits of their offerings to those who received them. They asked that the Sunday school budget be transferred into the church treasury, and this was done. That first year the children raised \$708 to send to a child in Vellore, India. Full-blown committee reports did not begin to appear in the annual reports until 1982 and that was the first official mention of an Education Committee. At that time the committee was kept very busy supervising a Sunday School with official superintendents and with an average attendance of 50-60 children, plus enough teachers to cover each grade level. There were also two adult classes: a Bible Study and a topical discussion group that discussed such things as articles from the church magazine or issues that interested them.



Local demographics began to change, and by the year 2000 attendance had fallen because there were few young children left in the congregation or even in the area around the church. For several years the Sunday School attendance was very sparse. The adults eventually combined into one Bible Study class, which has averaged 10-12 students attending each week. In 2016 the Sunday School is alive and doing well, with one class for primary students and another for those above third grade,

along with the on-going adult Bible study. There are also some very young prospective Sunday School students attending church, and it is wonderful to have them, even on their livelier days!





Vacation Bible School has always been an important part of Cameron's summers because it is felt that this is such a vital outreach to the entire community. The "new addition" built on the north side of the church in the early 1980's was such a blessing because it added necessary classroom space to help with large enrollments in Sunday School, and VBS attendance of over 100 children at times. There are vivid memories of a time when the folding classrooms in the basement were both in use, and the walls were actually bulging because of all the kids. It

was a wonderful problem to have, but the teachers and helpers probably didn't think so.

Numbers for VBS dropped a little during the same years the Sunday School was down in numbers, but from 2013-2016 attendance has climbed back up, with 60-70 children and nearly as many helpers. Many of the helpers are in upper grades or high school, and others are parents of the children attending. VBS students used to stay with the same teacher for the whole daily session for all their activities, but in the last several years the children have been divided into age groups that go to stations where they learn Bible Stories, view and talk about Christian children's videos, have crafts, and go outside for organized games.



And there is music! Those in the kitchen wait for the ceiling to fall when a really enthusiastic song is being sung upstairs, because those often involve stamping feet and lots of motions. Any threatening weather during VBS week is always a subject of lots of prayer, although the leaders always cope wonderfully with indoor activities due to outdoor rain during game time.



Mid-morning is snack time, and the children all gather together in the basement to share a planned menu of healthy snacks. These may consist of cheese, crackers, all kinds of fruit and vegetables, sausages and sometimes a sweet treat of some sort. The biggest hit in 2016 was a whole-wheat pita which had been cut in wedges and served with cheese and sausage slices. There wasn't a crumb left. The kids all sit down together at tables in the basement for this feast, and it's quite a scene with 70 energetic little bodies, plus all the helpers trying to supervise them! The snacks are planned by the VBS director but are accomplished completely with volunteer workers and donated food.

For many years the post-Bible School program was called Children's Day, and was held on the Sunday after VBS was over. The children presented a program during church, followed by a potluck and treats provided by WELCA. This needed to change because it was hard to get the families to return to participate in the program on Sunday as many were members of other churches in other towns, or may have weekend plans. For this reason the program was changed to Friday night of the last day of VBS, followed by a potluck. This has been very well attended.





# 2016 VBS





There have been many opportunities for adult education over the years. Several pastors have taught week-day or evening adult education classes, beginning with the massive Crossways! two-year Bible study first begun by Pastor Bob Kenyon. When he left Cameron, there was a class in progress; Interim Ron Martin-Dent continued it, and Pastor David Kappus finished it. No further Crossways! classes were scheduled, but Pastor Kappus and subsequent pastors taught courses on such topics as “Seasons of Life,” “The Purpose-Driven Life,” “Martin Luther,” “Forgiveness,” “Baptism,” and various Bible and topical studies. These were generally well-attended and led to good discussion and learning.

## The WELCA

One of the absolute pillars of the Cameron congregation is the work done by the women involved in Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church - aka WELCA. Every woman who belongs to the church is automatically considered a member. It is still called “Ladies Aid” at times, but it is so much more than a congregational aid. It is an organization with its own budget and slate of officers, and it does a mammoth amount of work. They are known for so many things: potlucks, quilts, bazaars, relief kits for Lutheran World Relief, Easter breakfasts, donating quilts for emergencies, and pies and pies and pies for organizations who need them for various functions and fundraisers.



Several of the potlucks WELCA presides over are annual events. Each spring the women sponsor a potluck to honor the graduating KHS seniors. The students and their families are invited to worship, then to a dinner afterwards. This event has its own chairman, who finds a date that doesn't conflict with too many things, arranges a short program, and has the senior table decorated. Senior attendance depends on the size of the class and sometimes how many of the class are Cameron members, but they and their families are always so appreciative for that special time that it continues to be worthwhile. There is always a potluck associated with Confirmation. It was a tradition that the mothers of the previous year of confirmands would supervise the potluck for the class being confirmed, but if that wasn't possible, WELCA gladly did it.

Several years ago the women's annual Christmas party became a family celebration instead of ladies-only, and sometimes the women made soup and asked for side-dishes, or it was a full-blown potluck after church on the day of the party. Instead of a gift exchange there were games, Christmas carols, speakers, and showers for such groups as Life Choices Clinic in Lewiston, or offerings for the Northwest Children's Home or other charities. WELCA has been in charge of VBS potlucks for years, and it also takes care of the potluck held after church on annual meeting days. All these potlucks are very fondly remembered by many people in and out of the church as cooks “compete” to see whose new recipe is the most delicious offering!

One of the major outreaches of the women has been serving meals to families after funerals at Cameron. This is a gesture which allows families to visit with those who have come from a distance, and to visit with old friends from the church. It is an enormous comfort to grieving families to have friends take care of them in such a fashion



Christmas brings out the joy at Cameron in a couple of special traditions. First is the Cantata given each year by the choir, followed by a spectacular display of homemade goodies on an equally spectacular table at the reception afterwards...sort of a potluck of cookies and special treats brought by all the church women. WELCA also supplies the candy for the goody-bags handed out after the Sunday School program on Christmas Eve. The Christmas Eve Sunday School program is fairly unique, and is one of Cameron's most cherished traditions.

Another beloved tradition is the Easter Breakfast which is enjoyed every year after the 7 a.m. service. People sign up to bring the food for this breakfast; it is a community effort to get everything cooked and served and enjoyed. The menu usually consists of ham or sausage, hash browns, scrambled eggs, fried eggs, sweet rolls, muffins, orange juice and coffee.



One of the biggest events of the year is the annual turkey dinner and bazaar, which takes most of the year to prepare. Many hours are spent hand-stitching two (or more) large quilts. Other people spend more hours putting together all kinds of crafts, and an enormous all-homemade turkey dinner is prepared. The auction sale follows the dinner, and usually raises a healthy amount of money, of which a good percentage goes to designated charities. The rest is used for WELCA operating expenses.



Meetings are held once a month beginning in September, and time at these meetings is spent working on Lutheran World Relief projects such as quilts or kits and hand stitching quilts for the Bazaar. From January to May they meet on the first and third (and fifth, if there is one) Wednesdays



With a short business meeting on the first Wednesday. Lunch is provided by a hostess or by...wait for it! ...a potluck meal. Twice a year LWR relief supplies are packed up and taken to Spokane, from there they are sent to a Maryland warehouse and then on to the world. Taking a small truck-load of boxes to Spokane twice a year has added up to an amazing total of goods sent since 1991.



**Soap: 4632 pounds** For many years soap-making was an annual event after various butchering “parties” took place in January. Two sisters: Thelma Meyer and Margaret Parks, then took charge of the fat from the animals. It was rendered then combined with lye and other ingredients and poured into molds to harden, after which it was cut into bars and prepared for shipment to Lutheran World Relief. As much as 899 pounds in a single year was sent. About year 2000 LWR no longer accepted homemade or non-commercial soap, so for a few years wrapped soap was sent; the last year soap in any form was sent was 2006

**Clothing: (from 1991-2006) 2428 pounds** of good used men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing, plus sweaters, was sent. However, after 2006 LWR could no longer accept this clothing.

**School kits: 737 kits** have been sent. For the past few years, collecting items for these kits has been a congregational summertime project because of the good prices available during the summer in back-to-school sales. All items must be new. The kits contain 4 spiral notebooks, 5 new pencils with erasers, 5 ball-point pens, a 1-foot (30 cm) ruler, a box of crayons, a pencil sharpener, a pair of blunt school scissors, and a good pink eraser. These items are packed into sturdy fabric back-packs (made by our own women) that are strung with nylon cord, then filled with supplies and tied shut. For a couple years one extremely caring young boy (Gunnar Bruce) asked people to bring school supplies instead of presents to his birthday party, then he and his family packed them for LWR. What a gift to the children of the world!

**Sewing kits: 207 kits**, which now consist of two 3-yd. pieces of cotton fabric with a spool of matching thread for each piece.

**Health (Personal Care) kits: 991 kits.** The whole congregation can take credit for these kits. Collecting materials for the kits has been a project during Lent for several years. These kits contain a regular-sized bath towel, a toothbrush, 8-9 ounces of bath soap (3 small bars or 2 large ones), a good sturdy comb, and a nail clipper, all of which must be new and/or unused.

**Baby Care kits: 1149 kits.** These kits contain used but good clothing for babies aged 0 - 24 months. Most of the supplies are found in thrift shops or at store sales. They contain two receiving blankets (some made by WELCA members from good flannel cloth), four new diapers, two diaper pins, two gowns, two shirts, two pairs of socks, two bars of soap, a hand-towel, and a jacket or sweater either with a hood or with a separate baby hat.



**Quilts: 1993 quilts** made and sent since 1991. Tops are made from fabric blocks sewed together by members, put on a frame with a back and batting, then tied by the women. Last, they are machine-bound. These are usually colorful and have many more uses than as bed-coverings. They are used by people all over the world for warmth, to put up as walls in their homes, to use as carriers to transport things to a market, to use as rugs for displaying items at markets, and for keeping people warm in refugee camps. It has become a small tradition at Cameron to display these quilts on the back of the church pews for a couple weeks before they are shipped. The whole congregation gets to enjoy their colorful presence that way! The world-wide demand for these LWR quilts is about 500,000 per year.



**Blankets: 33 blankets** have been sent over the years

In addition to the quilts and kits, WELCA sends checks to help pay for shipping both in the U.S. and overseas - 75 cents per pound - so that LWR doesn't have to spend its own precious funds for these charges.

Special needs are often discerned in the church or community and WELCA often responds to these needs. Fire quilts - those a bit larger than regular relief quilts - are given to families who have suffered house fires; quilts for auctions are donated to the EMT or Pat Rush Medical Emergency fund; boxes are prepared and sent to Samaritan's Purse and for our servicemen at Christmastime.



Serving dinner and presenting program at Kendrick Senior Citizen's Center

WELCA sponsors both an evening and an afternoon Bible study each month based on the studies in the *Gather* magazine. Pies are often baked and taken to local fundraisers. They prepare a sign-up list for those who would like to provide altar flowers on Sundays. They keep the kitchen provided with needed supplies. They send cards to people who are ill or who have lost family members. They sponsor an annual Thankoffering Service where a special offering is collected and sent to the National Women of the ELCA for their work. A slogan which has been used by the national church fits WELCA perfectly: God's work, our hands.





A very special outreach to small children from WELCA is the gifting of Bibles to children when they turn five. For many of the kids it is the first Bible of their very own that they have received, and the great reward for the whole congregation is to watch their faces light up as they receive these Bibles that have their own names inscribed in them. It is the hope that parents will read these Bibles with the children until they are old enough to read them for themselves.

Cameron has been involved with food relief activities other than the local Good Samaritan Food Bank for years. There is a national second-harvest program called "Feeding America" where fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, bread, and packaged items from various sources are collected and sent on trucks to locations such as church parking lots, for distribution to those who need help with food.

Several from Cameron have volunteered to help with these food trucks which come to Clarkston 3-4 times a year. A truck from the Idaho Food Bank comes to Juliaetta once a month where those who need food aid can come for various products; as has been mentioned before, whatever isn't given away at the truck goes to the Good Samaritan Food Bank in Juliaetta. Another program that Cameron has helped with is the free dinner at the Salvation Army facility in Lewiston. Whenever there is a fifth Tuesday in a month, WELCA members help prepare the meal and provide funds for any items which must be purchased.



Decorating cookies for Salvation Army

And finally, WELCA's work is not confined to Cameron. Over the years several members have been involved in the Synodical Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Vickie Witt has been on the synodical board for years, and was president of the Synod women at one point. She and Connie Reid have been to Triennial women's conventions all over the United States, and Vickie is still on the synodical women's board. Other WELCA members have attended numerous conventions and retreats, and Cameron has hosted or helped organize several cluster events. It's a reminder that Cameron women are part of a much larger group of faithful women.



It might sound



Harold giving helping hand. How many can we fit in the kitchen?

as if the men just flatten against the walls and get out of the way when the women are on a roll. Not so. Without their help so many of the church projects and traditions wouldn't take place. They slice turkeys and mash potatoes and cook things at the bazaar after they first haul and set up tables and chairs in the basement from all over the church for the dinner. Then they put the church back together afterwards. They help cook at the Easter breakfast. They fix and replace broken things all over the church and maintain the building.

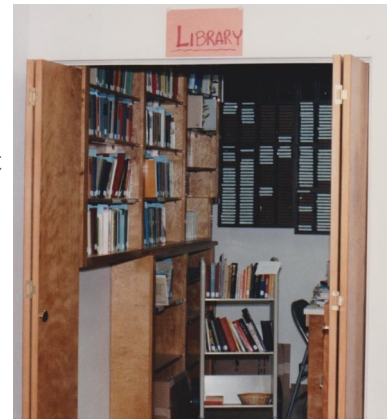


They are church officers and choir members and committee members. They bring risers and Christmas supplies down from the balcony for the cantata. Then they put them back up there. They help pack up relief supplies for shipment to Spokane. They carry heavy stuff up and down steps. They understand how things like plumbing and pumps and light switches and the church constitution work. They care as deeply and work as hard for Cameron as the women do. Interdependently & TOGETHER we do God's work with our hands!



## The Library

The “new addition” at Cameron was built in 1981-82, and off the main overflow room upstairs was a medium-sized closet that was designated to be the library. It had shelves, a tiny desk, some books and a light, and that was about it. At the time the library committee consisted of Alma Lawrence, Marlene Meyer, Carol Blom, and Carolyn Giese, and these women couldn't even occupy the library at the same time because it was so small. It wasn't used much because it was a bit out-of-the-way. While interim pastor Tom Hughes was at Cameron he asked for the council's blessing to move the library to Classroom A, which is situated right off the overflow room upstairs.



Permission was granted, and Pastor Hughes and carpenter Joe Johnston moved the library. The shelves from the original library were moved and some small purchased bookcases were added. The closet reverted to being a closet. And the “new” library has certainly changed over the years! There are large and interesting collections of Christian novels, inspirational non-fiction by Christian writers, Bibles and reference materials, videos, children's books, many series of old (but still relevant) Augsburg lesson series on a wide variety of Bible texts and subjects, and a large collection of local historical books and documents for those interested in local history.

The library is also a bit of a multi-purpose area. It is used for all kinds of meetings, including the church council, Bible studies, committees, and people who just need a place to sit down in a comfortable place to talk. People can also go there to do research since there are many historical and Christian reference books, with plenty of room to spread out..

Librarians Marlene Meyer and Mildred Brammer, instituted a couple of much-enjoyed additions. One began as a challenge called “Go For 10,” which called for people to read one book a month from January through November 1, 2002. If they did this they would be invited to a party with free food; those who hadn't read enough books could come for a small donation. Twenty-eight people read 444





books that first year! The party was on, needless to say. The program continues and is still going in 2016. An additional perk was added a few years later: each book read advanced Paul a distance on his missionary journeys, and he reportedly made it well into his second journey. Readers were also encouraged to follow these journeys in the book of Acts. In 2012 another incentive to read was added: an anonymous donor offered to donate \$1 for every book read, which was to be divided between World Hunger and the Good Samaritan Food Bank. Each ended up being sent \$201. In 2013 donors again promised \$1 per book which was sent to water/well projects for Lutheran World Relief, and \$540 was sent for these projects.

That same year more permanent bookshelves were built to take the place of some small temporary shelves which had been purchased to create more room for books as the original shelving filled up. A mammoth collection of records for all graves in the Cameron Cemetery was donated by Bev Thon in 2015, and is available for research. Over the years many new books were purchased with support from the church, WELCA, Thrivent, and personal donations. Many more books were donated by individuals. The parties continue for the “Go-For-10” readers each year, and they continue to be well-attended, followed occasionally by a game time after the meal.



The library always has a page in the newsletter, with occasional book reviews by readers. Many years ago a library cart was placed in the overflow room right outside the library door, with new books displayed. This has led to even more people reading because they have to walk right past the cart on their way in or out the side door of the church, and when they see a good new title they can't resist checking it out!

## **Mission Endowment Fund**

In 2004 Cameron's Mission Investment Fund was begun by a large anonymous donation. Its purpose was to fund mission work at home and around the world, above and beyond the programs supported through regular offerings. It was to be invested in and managed by the ELCA; it was to be funded through designated individual endowment gifts or bequests from wills, designations from retirement plans or insurance, etc. Once the fund reached \$25,000 it would begin earning yearly interest which could be reinvested in the fund or used by the congregation for outreach efforts, missions, capital improvements, or other perceived needs. The disbursement of interest funds would be suggested by a five-member committee which would present recommendations at the annual meeting, and they would be voted upon at that time. The MIF was adopted at the annual meeting on January 16, 2005.

By 2006 the fund had reached \$25,000, and by the end of that year the fund was up to \$31,000. The first recorded interest given out was a gift of \$100 to Josi McConnell-Soong at the annual meeting of January, 2007, for her mission trip to China. By the end of 2015 the MIF had grown to \$62,480. Over the years interest money has been given to the Ulanga Kilombero companion synod for the Tumaini School, VBS, the library, *The Lutheran*, Lutheran World Relief, Cameron's Capital Improvement Fund, the Good Samaritan Food Bank, the choir, and for worship needs. The money generated by the MIF is thus going to congregational, community, and world-wide causes, which was the intent of the fund founders.

## Lutheran Brotherhood – Thrivent

Another source of funds donated to Cameron has always been Lutheran Brotherhood. We received matching funds from them for many years for our bazaar, and the distribution of these funds was suggested by a committee. In 2001 Lutheran Brotherhood and Aid Association for Lutherans merged into an organization called Thrivent Financial. Through 2008 matching funds of \$1300 per year continued to be sent to Cameron. After a committee composed of Thrivent members made its recommendations, the congregation voted on them at the annual meeting. These funds were allocated to various needs each year. The recipients included the choir, the library, quilt batting, worship, missions and an LCD projector, among other things.

Thrivent changed the system to a program called “Care for the Congregation” which had Thrivent members themselves designating where their earnings went, whether from a list of suggested charities or to their church to use at its discretion. As before, the allocation and distribution of these dollars received by the church from this program is voted on at the annual meeting.

Then the system changed once again to having Thrivent members send in applications for \$250 grants (which came in the form of a credit card) that must be used for the church projects or charities described in the application. Thrivent requires that the money they send be properly accounted for. Each member can apply twice a year for these “grants” and they have been used for bazaar turkeys, other bazaar expenses, some Quasquicentennial (125<sup>th</sup>) Celebration Committee expenses, quilt batting and choir music, among other things. Keeping up with the changes in procedure has been challenging, but once members got the hang of the little “grants” in Thrivent’s latest system, it has been working very well!

## Music

Lutherans do like to sing! There are few things as thrilling as going to a Lutheran function of any sort, and having the whole place break out in four-part harmony as they sing a hymn! Since 1986 Joanne Gertje has led the choir at Cameron, and helped introduce new hymns to the congregation by having the choir learn them first. There have been many changes in hymnals and worship services over the years, and though change is usually resisted, grumblings have subsided and some of the new songs and liturgies have actually become congregational favorites. Joanne has led the



Christmas cantatas since 1990. (Donna Lohman retired from leading the choir in 1986, but continued to direct the cantata through 1989.)

Community members and some high school students often join to sing in the cantata, and people come from all over to listen to it. For several years the dress rehearsal for the cantata was in Nez Perce the week before its performance at Cameron. After the performance they always treated the choir to a lutefisk dinner, which was a wrench for all the German members of Cameron's choir, but still was much appreciated! After the years at Nez Perce, the choir "road-tested" the cantata at Troy, Lewiston, and Good Samaritan Village in Moscow.

A second seasonal event in which the choir participated was a Reformation Concert at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lewiston. Many different area choirs and soloists performed at these concerts in the 1990s. As events do, it ran its course, but it was an inspiring musical experience in which to take part. Since Pat Holt and Ruth Slind retired, Ann Taylor has been the primary accompanist for the choir

## Maintenance

The Maintenance Committee has been behind the scenes for years, fixing broken things, changing light bulbs, taking out garbage on garbage days, painting, fixing plumbing leaks, and all the other relatively minor tasks that come up in the church building and the parsonage. Several major projects and additions have happened over the years:

1990: An elevator was installed in the church at a cost of \$3211. The majority of this was paid by memorials received for Mildred Silflow.

1990: In the parsonage, basement walls were insulated and dry-walled, and carpet was installed in basement bedrooms

1991: The Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) was established in order to have a designated account from which repairs and upgrades and equipment could be taken

1992: Hearing Assist System installed. Memorials used were for Ervin Lohman, Elmer Lohman, Helen Halseth, Hardy Holt, Herman & Bernhardt Kruger. Individual members of the congregation purchased hearing boxes as well.

1993: Two new yard lights were installed; Ed Condell memorial funds paid for the lighting bill through 2002.

1993: A new well was dug at the southeast corner of the church. It was 454 feet deep; a new pump was installed, as well as a new pressure tank at the parsonage

1993: Ted Meske spent many hours installing a sound system in the church; this included wireless microphones, eliminating the possibility that the pastor or anyone else would trip and fall over wires during worship services.

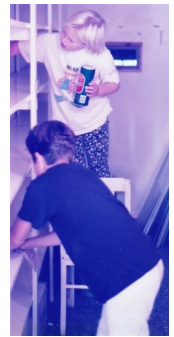
1995: Between pastors, the Potlatch Ridge Workers 4-H club cleaned the inside of the parsonage and cleaned up landscaping outside as a Community Pride Project







4-H lending a hand with landscaping and cleaning



1996: The church roof was replaced, and a new lawnmower was purchased

1986-1995: Across the years memorials were used to replace the original sanctuary windows with stained glass. Pastor Kenyon created a schematic to follow as family requests were made. The eight windows include The Nativity, Baptism of Jesus, Jesus Blessing the Children, Sewing the Seed, The Last Supper, Praying in the Garden, Cross and Wheat, The Ascension of Jesus



1996: Ted Meyer memorial funds were used to transform the altar from its original black formica to brown with three inset wood carvings

1997: The Thelma Meyer memorials were used to purchase an electronic keyboard

1998: Pastor David Kappus had his confirmation class, Justin Johnston, John Schmidt, Silas Parks, and Chris Blair, tear down the old barn on the property. Others assisting were Russ Brammer, Joe Johnston, and Ann Parks



1998: A new water heater was installed in the parsonage, and the parsonage garage roof on the north end and roof over the south side stairwell were re-shingled

1999: A new computer was purchased by using about 11 undesignated memorial accounts. The church records management computer program, Power Church Plus was reviewed and installed.



1999: a new metal door was installed on the back east entrance of the church. At the parsonage, new donated kitchen cabinets were installed, along with new flooring and a new door leading from the kitchen to the garage.

2000: a new pump was installed (on warranty) in the well, and a new lawnmower was purchased. A new dishwasher was installed in the parsonage





2001: a new roof was put on the church addition.  
At the parsonage, new gutters were installed

2002: major work on the parsonage: new vinyl siding and windows, aluminum soffits, new insulation, and a new garage door were installed. It looked like a new building!

2002: New road signs purchased from Lance Giese memorial were put up

2004: Pastor Karl Kunder arrived and in addition to preaching, began his amazing garden. His compost pile actually grew a peach tree that produced peaches! He also built a little greenhouse, and generously shared produce with people.

2004: a toilet in the upstairs bathroom at church cracked and leaked water down to flood the “teen classroom” below it. The toilet had to be replaced, and new carpet was installed in the teen room. The room also had to be repainted

2005: old landscaping in front of the church was taken out and new landscaping planned by Janel (Silflow) Shaw, planted by volunteers. A new front sidewalk was also poured.

2006: the church basement and kitchen were painted. One kitchen cupboard was remodeled (thanks to the imagination and work of Horst Reil) which contained two large pull-out drawers for disposable plates and cups and glasses instead of shelves. It was much more convenient! The outside fireplace and barbecue was repaired so it could be used again

2007: the sanctuary hardwood floor was refinished

2007: Hap Brunsiel’s memorial was used for a portable speaker system used for outdoor services and the Bazaar; Pat Grim’s memorial purchased the Christmas tree.; Ernest Brammer’s and LCD projector; the memorials of Jean Wegner, Gertrude Sneve, Bob Lovejoy and Walter Wolff helped pay for the new ELW hymnals.

2008: a deck was built in the back of the parsonage by Jack Meyer and Pastor Kunder, and a new hot-water tank was installed in the parsonage

2009: ceiling fans were installed in the church thanks to memorial funds given in memory of Marvin Silflow

2010: in an attempt to find why inside walls of the basement on the south side of the church seemed to have water damage, the lawn beside the church was dug up, septic lines were replaced, drains were cleaned, and the septic tank was pumped

2010: new “cloud lights” were installed in the basement of the church from memorial funds given in memory of Werner Brammer and Marvin Silflow



Lauralee Kunder cleaning up the great flood



2010: a sprinkler system was installed in the south lawn of the church from memorial funds given in memory of Theo Meske , Walt & Rowena Koepp, Ernest & Jean Brammer, and Pat Grim

2011: with money from Frank and Virginia Jacobson's memorial funds, the children's playroom was completely remodeled. A committee of mothers: Heidi Schaefer, Cindy Patterson, Danielle Heimgartner, and Shelby Silflow, planned what needed to be done, then cleaned out all the worn-out toys and supplies. They painted the walls, replaced or added shelves and storage, bought new toys and supplies, and hung new pictures. Teri Hornberger painted whimsical clouds all around the walls. On Dec. 4 there was a grand opening: during a coffee hour, the room was dedicated and the children cut the ribbon into the room.



What a joy for the children! With a little prodding, they keep it pretty well picked up.

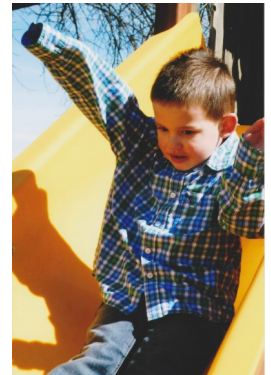
2012: a new garbage disposal was installed in the parsonage, and a new kitchen faucet was installed in the church with a very high neck that will even allow large 84-cup coffee makers to go underneath it.

2013-2015: fairly routine but at each annual meeting it was noted that the south roof of the sanctuary is damaged and needs repair, and that the outside of the church needs painting. This will happen as funds are available

2014: Memorial funds of Emil & Doris Silflow, Dolores Lyons, and Lois Fliger were used for a copier for the church office; Pat Grim's memorial purchased a new north entrance door

2015: a swamp cooler was purchased for the office and master bedroom at the parsonage

In 2015 funds from Jim Hornberger's memorial purchased a new slide, tic tac toe board, and climbing wall pegs for the existing playground equipment. This was installed by Dale & Patti Silflow and Don & Ann Parks with close supervision of Loralee Ohrtman and puppy. In 2016, Scott Feldman donated materials and he and Dale renovated the swinging bridge.



2016: acoustical panels were installed in the ceiling of the church basement. These were financed mostly from Alma Lawrence's memorial money and other undesignated WELCA funds. The panels were installed by Joe Johnston, and seem to be quite effective at helping with noise problems when more than a few people are present in the basement

2016: a major flood occurred in the parsonage basement...right in the middle of Holy Week. It was brought on by heavy rains and some problems with the septic tank drainage, including the fact that a line which ran under the basement floor had broken. There were damaged carpets, walls, furniture and some personal items of Pastor Groseclose. As remediation began the front lawn of the parsonage was euphemistically called "a large divot" after the digging for the septic tank was done. After many hours of work by professionals and church volunteers over several months order was restored in the basement and the divot was replaced. Digging up the basement floor to repair the broken line was postponed to a later date..



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So many events - so many people - so much history...it would take a very large book to tell all the stories (see John 21:25!) and give all the credit that is due to so many people for the life and history of Cameron Emmanuel Church. God has blessed us richly over the years with His gifts and His Spirit, and it is the prayer of the committee writing this report that we continue to do God's work with our hands, reaching out to the community and the world, and to continue to make His-story for another 125 years !

