

CENTERPOINT CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT 2020



WALKING AN UNFAMILIAR PATH

ELDERS REPORT

We have not walked this way before. Some previous generations have encountered wide - ranging pandemics perhaps, but this is new to us. And it makes us uncomfortable in many ways. Just as a young child who is alone out at night in an unfamiliar area would want to have a parent next to them and walk in the protective shadow of that parent, so we desire the same as we walk a dark & unfamiliar pathway with Covid-19.

Psalms 91:1-2 assures us of God's close presence during times of trouble.

"Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty .This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety: He is my God & I trust in Him"

The elders at Centerpoint desire for our church family to take comfort in the fact that our heavenly Father is with us & close at hand as we walk through this pandemic "under His shadow". He does not abandon us in our grief, uncertainty, or despair. He comes alongside us and helps us in

our weakness. All he asks is that we place our trust in His loving guidance, provision and care.

We want to leave you with the promise of praise to God—a promise that shines brightest perhaps during times of significant trial and struggle. A promise that carries with it the certain hope of knowing that our Saviour loves us and is with us every step of the way, no matter what difficulties might come. 1 Cor. 1:3-5 says "All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father & the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled ,we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with His comfort through Christ."

May our Lord comfort you at this time.

WITH WARM AFFECTION AND PRAYERS

**THE ELDERS AT
CENTERPOINT CHURCH**

WE ARE
GROWING
THROUGH A
PANDEMIC


aprx **150**
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE
2020



384
AVERAGE
VIEWS
EACH
SUNDAY

THROUGH FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE





GIVINGS

UP 10.5%
FROM 2019

\$323,384 IN 2019
\$357,913 IN 2020



APP DOWNLOADS

UP 82%
FROM 2019

210 IN DECEMBER 2019
384 IN DECEMBER 2020



APP LAUNCHES

UP 112%
FROM 2019

3941 IN DECEMBER 2019
8363 IN DECEMBER 2020

MORE THAN
A **Manger**

O V E R
9250
VIEWS



THROUGH THE EYES OF A HURRICANE

LEAD PASTOR'S REPORT

When the announcement of COVID's arrival came last March I was immediately struck by a passage from Isaiah, *"But forget all that—it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland"*. (Isaiah 43:18-19) I felt that God was confronting our society's reliance upon self because he knows that this eventually ends in disappointment and disaster. I felt that although the coming months would be painful, they would also provide an impetus for real and lasting change. Change that would result in a more dedicated and committed followership of Jesus Christ. Change that would necessarily be painful, but in the end, it could be wonderful.

Like a hurricane on the horizon, the COVID pandemic rose on our "weather" radar and before we knew it, it enveloped the entire globe. The scramble to get Centerpoint church ready was immediate. To be honest there was a certain degree of uncertainty and perhaps even anxiety, but God has been with us every kilometer of the journey. He knew we couldn't avoid the storm, but he also knew that our vessel—his church—was going to be secure. Just when it looked like we might be blown way off course or take on a huge amount of water, the Great Navigator showed us a safe pathway through the storm.

The staff of the church stepped up in a tremendous way, preparing us for online services. They were joined by many dedicated volunteers who helped with the worship music, the filming of multiple video segments for both weekend services as well as helping in the production of videos for our Centerpoint Kids ministry. Even day camp was able to

run last summer, reaching about 400 children, several of whom made first time decisions for Jesus. In dealing with the real and changing challenges of the past year, it has been a special joy to serve alongside such amazing brothers and sisters in Christ.

Of course, not all has been celebratory. There have been many people in our church family who have faced significant difficulty. Watching people struggle with health issues, witnessing the isolation forced upon us, (especially our seniors), and seeing the relational and economic pain caused by the by the pandemic has been difficult to witness. I also acknowledge that the society we live in is struggling. As the latest Winnipeg Sun newspaper headline said this weekend, "No end in sight". With all this hopelessness around us, where is the message of hope going to come from? Not vaccines or in health protocols alone. Hope is found in its ultimate source: Jesus Christ. The Bible says that it is through our suffering that this message of hope comes through clearest. The apostle Paul spoke about his suffering so that the secret plan of God could be revealed to the world. What was it? *"And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you the assurance of sharing his glory." (Colossians 1:27)*

What this is the "new thing" that God wants to do? Perhaps its this: having Christ fill our vision again. Letting the world know that Jesus lives in us. Doubling down on our hope in Christ alone, especially in times of suffering. Embracing faith in Christ: that no matter what comes, our Jesus is greater. That no matter how long our current trial lasts, we have a Saviour who will outlast it. That no matter how lost or disoriented we might feel, we have a Great Navigator who will keep us on course.

Where are we now? In the worst part of the storm. And just as a ship that hits the back eye wall of the hurricane, so we are being hit with the fiercest winds yet. But we are also closer to the storm's end. This will not go on forever. There is an end in sight. We need to keep the ship in good condition, care for the wounded, rescue the perishing and chart a certain course ahead. We cannot forget that our destination is ahead of us, not behind. We have no guarantee that another great storm might not hit us, but we do have the assurance that with the Great Navigator to guide us, we will be safe. We have the assurance that as the crew of the ship are doing a good work—picking up/rescuing many people who would otherwise be lost at sea—that we are fulfilling our purpose. We have the assurance that this "new thing" (which is really an "old" thing) is simply getting back to the gospel.

So, I challenge us to embrace this "new thing" that God has planned for us with a renewed vigour. Let's encourage one another and not worry about whether or not we can meet in person for the short term, because ultimately that decision is out of our control. Let's text, message, phone or video call someone this week. Let's pray for those who are struggling, pray for those in government, and pray for our church leaders. Let's emerge from the eye of this hurricane with a renewed sense of vision, purpose and joy. Jesus will not fail us. He is with us every step of the way. Even through the eye of a hurricane.

IN HIS SERVICE
PASTOR GLENN

CHANGING TO CONNECT

A KIDS MINISTRY UPDATE

We are excited about what God is doing in the life of our church and what is to come! During the past few months, we have seen the cancellation of a number of our ministries including DDC Weekly, Christmas Camp and the birthday program. We have been blessed, though to have an opportunity to run an online Christmas camp, an in-person spring break program, Centerpoint Kids live and our brand new Loft Town TV Youtube channel.

LTTV has now 30 videos to reach our kids with fun interactive content and bible themes. The channel showcases the ministry and gives kids solid biblical truths. We use our own content for Centerpoint kids and for DDC lessons.

Summer 2021 is less than 2 months away and we are working hard to build a program that serves our community for Christ. We, in faith, accepted 400 kids on registration day (April 1) and hope for that number to be allowable starting July 5. We are working hard right now to build a solid summer team and have the biblical curriculum in place along with all of the

other details for that July start date. We will also be ready to go with a program that can serve 2 cohorts of 25 for the week which would allow for all the kids who registered to attend if the restrictions dictate.

Please pray for the following:

- That the number of cases goes down and that we will be able to run our summer camp as planned.
- That God will provide us with a solid team that is passionate about the gospel.
- That however many kids attend this summer, that they would hear the good news of Jesus and bring it home to their families.

IN HIS SERVICE
MARK WERNER





CONTINUING TO SERVE

BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

It has been a privilege to serve in the area of maintenance of the Church Building. Even though we have not had a lot of people in the building, there has still been plenty to do. We were able to have the carpeting replaced in the foyer. As well, address an issue of ice building up in the parking lot by having downspouts re-routed.

I have been able to do a lot of painting and general upkeep. There has also been gardening and grass cutting done to keep the property looking good. I feel that the way we keep the Church yard reflects our love for Jesus and is a testimony to those in the neighbourhood. We have a lot of people that walk by and sometimes just a friendly Hello is all that it takes to get a conversation going. I am reminded of the words of a song by JJ Weeks Band. Let them see You in me, Let them hear You when I speak, Let them feel you when I sing, Let them see you in me. That totally is my prayer when I am working at the Church throughout the week.

IN HIS SERVICE
COLLEEN DE VIET

INNOVATING TO REACH OUR COMMUNITY MUSIC & WORSHIP

The past year was really challenging but also rewarding as we learned to be flexible with the circumstances we faced. Early on in the pandemic we found it necessary to expand our video capabilities to meet the need of online services and other online ministries. We started the video production team which now has over 10 members (and we're always looking for more!) and we also purchased much needed video equipment.

The importance of the video ministry has obviously not gone away so we are continuing to upgrade and improve our video team and video systems here at Centerpoint. We have spent approximately a third of the Christmas offering that was pledged for video upgrades (\$13,000 out of \$40,000) with more plans on the way. These upgrades take some time since they need to be planned out, integrated and then training needs to happen in order to use the new equipment properly. We are learning lots through this process and hope to bring you more and better ministry content as time goes on.

My next project is turning what was the library into our new production room. This is where the video switcher and

broadcast audio engineer will have their workstations (for regular services). We also recently implemented a new stage upgrade which you may have noticed in our worship times. We are always working at creating an engaging worship experience whether in person and online and our stage lighting upgrades play a big part in that!

The 'Big Upgrade' is still on the horizon for us. We are still planning on doing a big upgrade to our stage lighting and audio systems so we can bring a more contemporary worship experience to our congregation each week. This upgrade also includes building out our stage, sound booth and totally renovating our production room.

I want to thank all our volunteers for making what we do possible. If it wasn't for your commitment to this work we would not have been able to do much of what we've done this year! In the end we do what we do so we can be effective for the Gospel. We strive to do our best so the people that experience our services and other ministries can have a real connection with the Lord and move closer in relationship with Him.

IN HIS SERVICE
LUKE LISSEBERG





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