

Christ Lutheran Church

Marietta, Georgia

2018 Annual Report



CHRIST LUTHERAN
CHURCH
WEST COBB



Annual Congregation Meeting

December 16, 2018

Call to Order - Mike

Opening Prayer – Pastor Tim

- Annual committee reports available via handout and on website
- Approve minutes of the semi-annual meeting.
- Approve the selections of the nominating committee
 - Approve Tom Mabry as President for a 1-year term
 - Approve Julie Ridings as VP/Mutual Ministry for a 1-year term
 - Approve Michelle Shutty as Treasurer for a 1-year term.
 - Approve Deb Rogers as Secretary for a 1 year term.
 - Approve Chris Metcalfe as Fellowship Committee Chair for a 2-year term
 - Approve Paula Bode as Social Ministry Committee Chair on Council for a 2-year term
 - Approve Jim Boucher as Property Committee Chair on Council for a 2-year term
 - Approve Tom and Marianne Mabry as voting members for the Synod Assembly.
- Opportunities to serve (roles appointed by Council): Archivist, Audit Committee (3 minimum)
- Review/Approve 2019 Budget & Allocation of Funds
- Upcoming key activities – Mike
- Adjournment

Closing Prayer – Pastor Tim



2018 Annual Congregational Meeting Committee Reports

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It has been an exciting year of growth in our faith and our mission at Christ Lutheran Church!

As you will read in the updates from our committees, we have accomplished many great things in 2018. We continue to grow in our membership and our programming. We have more of our members engaged in our fellowship and social ministry efforts as well. We are financially stable and in an outstanding position to invest in our future physical worship space and our ministry.

On a personal note, I want to say thank you so much to Pastor Tim Wrenn for his vision and passion, our outstanding Church Council members who volunteer their time to help live our mission and improve the experience for all of our members, and to everyone in our congregation who has supported our leadership team along the way. It has been a great blessing to serve you, and I'm confident our best is yet to come.

Thanks again for all of your support and prayers!

Mike Mahler

2018 Council President

It has been a great joy to be part of the ministry that has happened at Christ Lutheran Church in 2018. Looking back on all that has happened in this last year makes me smile. I hope that you take time to read through all of the articles that have been provided by the council members. Their dedicated work throughout this year has been a major reason why we have been able to accomplish so much of the ministry that God has put before us.

As I mention leadership, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the work of our outgoing president Mike Mahler. His guidance has led this church to new heights over the past couple of years. We appreciate all the ways that he has taught us to be bold in vision and challenged us to be confident in the ways we pursue God's ministry here. Personally, I also give thanks to Mike for the many additional meetings he was willing to have with me as we navigated the changing landscape of CLC. His presence and knowledge have been exceptionally valuable.

As we look back at 2018, the word I would use to define the year is reaching. We have strived this past year to reach for the next ministry opportunity that God is presenting to us. In the midst of this reaching, we have learned more about the core values of this congregation. With this knowledge, we have been able to do some of the most amazing, life-giving work together.

This year we began to deepen our relationship and partnership with Julia and Vincent Leiyoole and the good people of Arsim, Kenya. It was truly a great joy to see the people in Arsim and their zeal for God. As we continue to reach into this partnership, I am curious where God is going to lead us. I know plans for the next trip are already brewing; is it possible that God is challenging you to make the trek?

Digging deeper into God's word has been a challenge we have been reaching toward throughout this past year. As we finished up *The Story* last spring and now have taken on the Narrative Lectionary, I have been amazed by the depth to which people are reaching into the Scriptures. For some of us, it has been reaching back in the memory banks to remember when we first learned about these texts. For others, we are reaching to dig deeper into this book of faith for the first time. I have found that my conversations at Bible Study and throughout the congregation have been better informed with Scripture. My hope is that we never stop reaching for the ways that God is leading us through the Word.

Finally, I just have to say that it is one of my great joys to be your pastor. I have so much fun telling just about everyone I meet about all that this church is up to. Thank you for continuing to give me the privilege to pastor at CLC. While it is exciting to look back on 2018, I am even more excited to look to 2019 and beyond. May God continue to reach for his people, too and through Christ Lutheran Church.

God's Peace,

Pastor Tim

Vice President/Mutual Ministry Report

Tom Mabry

2018 has been an exciting and blessed year for Christ Lutheran Church. We continue to grow in faith and numbers as a congregation with the support of our dedicated Pastor and staff. The goal of the Mutual Ministry Committee (“MMC”) is to be the eyes and ears of the congregation, ensuring our time, talents and resources are aligned with our ministry.

Our Congregational Pulse surveys have been a valuable tool to assess the voice of the congregation. With this feedback, the Council, MMC and our committees are able to identify and implement suggestions that align to the mission of CLC. This year, we collected approximately 75 responses in the Spring and approximately 50 responses in the Fall. Good ideas can come throughout the year, so please don't hesitate to share your feedback!

Our staff was expanded this year by adding a Director of Children's Ministry position to enrich our programming from infant to 5th grade. We were blessed in 2018 to have Jenni Van Rensselaer lay the groundwork for this important role in its first year. We are currently searching for an individual to continue Jenni's great work in 2019. Also, in 2018, Stephanie King concluded 8 years of dedicated service to CLC as our Office Manager. We thank both Jenni and Stephanie for sharing their gifts and talents with CLC!

We welcome Marianne Mabry into the role of Office Manager. We would like to thank both Marianne and Rita Buehner for creating our new website, plus Liz Robinson for lending her technical expertise to the project. The new site updates our church information and opens our doors to the West Cobb community.

CLC also embraced the opportunity to show our appreciation for our Rostered Ministers – Pastor Tim, Pastor Rachel Wrenn, and Pastor Mark Ellingsen. In October, we held a Rostered Ministers Appreciation event whereby members of the congregation could personally thank each Pastor for all they do for CLC. We also were able to raise over \$2,000 for the ELCA's Fund for Leader's campaign, which provides scholarship funds for seminary candidates.

As 2018 comes to a close, we are all reminded of God's grace and the blessings bestowed on Christ Lutheran Church. Thanks to all those who served CLC this year!

Peace,

Tom Mabry
Vice President & Mutual Ministry Committee

The year is shortly coming to a close, and thanks to the generosity and support of this congregation, we are on pace to overdeliver our financial goals for 2018.

- Year to date October, total contributions are \$251k, up 14% to prior year. We anticipate full year giving to come in just under \$310k. That will create an annual surplus of about \$29k to planned Giving.
- Year to date expenses are \$233k, which is 83% of the annual budget (on track). We are forecasting full-year Operating Expenses to be \$285k, about \$4k over the planned annual budget.
- With a Giving surplus of \$29k and Operating deficit of -\$4k, we expect to see a Cash surplus of about \$25k for the year.
- The current Reserve Cash balance is \$120k, which includes both the checking and the money market fund.
- The mortgage balance is \$113k with an interest rate of 4.1%.

The Budget & Finance Committee has consisted of a strong 5-member crew that has regularly met to review and discuss financial results and explore how we want to set the Church up for future financial strength and security. Areas of focus and key accomplishments this past year include:

- Established, integrated and trained the congregation on the new Online Giving platform (Vanco). In addition, with the implementation of Church 360 as the data management software, we have made significant improvements in the records management and system modernization of the Church. Look for more improvement in 2019.
- Established and Documented financial roles and responsibilities for the Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Finance Committee Chairs. Within the Finance Committee, we defined clear responsibilities by member to better assign and distribute work.
- We continue to review and establish Accounting processes and procedures related to Cash Receipts/Disbursements and Monthly Bank Reconciliation as we prepare for a financial Audit/Review.
- Developing a long-term strategy for the Church's Reserve Funds that includes Risk Management, Long Term Capital Planning and Council Designated Funds.
- Completed 2019 Budgeting for congregation review in December.

Thank you for your support and a great year.

Scott Christian – Budget and Finance Committee Chair

This year I am joined on the Stewardship Committee by Glenn McKenney, Stephanie King, and Tom Mabry. One of our goals this year was to increase the number of Estimate of Giving Cards returned to us and more people filling out the Volunteer Opportunity form. As of the writing of this report, we have only received 54 Volunteer Opportunity forms back as compared to 97 last year. On the Estimate of Giving Cards, we have received back 49 as compared to 84 last year. We will continue to actively try to bring in more Estimate of Giving Cards, so it will allow the Finance Committee to prepare a proper budget for 2019 which provides council the ability to make prudent and responsible decisions.

2018 envelopes:

- Envelopes ordered, Labels printed and attached a label to the boxes
- Membership envelopes will be available for pick up in the Narthex.

Volunteer Opportunity Estimated Giving:

We revised the Volunteer Opportunity Form with the help of all committees to consolidate the form and be a little more descriptive of each committee.

- The estimate of giving card was revised to include online giving information request.
- Created the theme “Growing in Faith & Service.” It focuses on Giving our Time, Talent & Treasure. In 2019, our emphasis is helping others by using God-given talents.
- A letter was sent out to all members.
- Temple talks were held on each of the three Sundays from the council committee chairs who shared a brief story on how their talents have helped them in their faith.
- The bulletin board was redesigned with the new theme “Growing Faith & Service,” and red hearts were distributed each week to allow the congregation to share what their talent(s) are. The hearts are being placed on the board as they are received.
- The Volunteer Opportunity forms have been collected & will be entered into the new 360 software. A list will be generated for committee chairs when completed.

Planning the Future

- We want to bring more information and assistance to the members of CLC on what it means to be a good steward.
- The Stewardship Committee will take a look at this year’s results to find any contributing factors that may have adversely affected our efforts during this year’s stewardship campaign and make changes to help improve next year’s outcome.

Watching God work,
Artie Kappel

The Worship Committee has been very active this year. Assisting Pastor Wrenn and keeping our Sunday Services running smoothly is our main task. We added a few new things this year to make the worship experience more meaningful to everyone.

We started the year off with a Worship Committee Retreat in January at Luther Ranch. Our theme for the weekend was – Worship is Intentional and everything we do in worship is for a purpose. We discussed what went well in 2017 and how we could expand meaningful worship experiences during 2018. This planning was crucial for us for the year.

During February, the Worship Committee joined with all the other committees at an all committee meeting where we worked together to plan the events for the year and how each committee could help others reach their goals for the year.

The Lenten Services were well attended and well received. This year we conducted the Trial of Judas vs. The People with many members of our congregation playing various roles & they performed very well. The verdict was that Judas should be given mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Easter was wonderful with our three services at Sunrise, 8:45 and 11:00 am. There was a brunch between 8:45 and 11:00 am services for the adults while the children were having their Easter egg hunt. We had a wonderful turnout.

Music and Arts Sunday was held on May 20. The adult choir and the bell choir sounded fantastic. We had some wonderful displays of creative art that members of the congregation donated for the day. We would like to encourage everyone and ask more people to please bring in your artistic creations for Music and Arts Sunday in 2019. May also saw the end of The Story which we had been participating in during worship, bible study, and Sunday School since September 2017. We were sad to finish the Story, but we looked forward to the future.

After Pentecost in June, we began our project to ask for and try to sing everyone's favorite hymns during the summer. We had wonderful participation from the congregation in submitting the songs that you like best. We were able to get through most of them and we hope you were there on Sunday we sang your favorite song.

In September, we started the Narrative Lectionary, a four-year cycle of readings taking us through the Bible once more. We will have Old Testament readings through Advent and study one gospel per year after Christmas. We have the weekly insert in our bulletins – God's Story, Our Story – which we can take home for more resources at home to guide our daily devotions. We also hand out to anyone who wants them Daily Devotional Booklets. We have gone from distributing 15 a month to 50 a month. It is wonderful that people are reading and studying the Word of the Lord.

(Worship Committee cont.)

We heard from the congregation in our 2017 survey that people wanted the 8:45 service to be different and a bit more contemporary. We answered and introduced the jazz quartet during both services on September 30, and during the 8:45 service on November 11 and December 16 church. We hope you filled out the current survey to let us know how often you wish to see this jazz quartet at the early service.

We hope you enjoyed the new event on December 10, Carols and Drinks at Taco Mac. Hopefully, we will make this an annual tradition. We are also hoping to have another similar event with some other Lutheran churches in the area. Stay tuned for more information on this in the new year.

The Worship Committee hopes that the things that we planned and implemented this year did indeed strengthen and enhance your worship experience at CLC. We will continue to work for you and help Pastor Tim bring meaningful worship services to you. If there is anything that the Worship Committee can do for you or if you have any ideas for us, please do not hesitate to bring those to any member of the committee. Thank you for supporting us.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Burkhart, Chair, Worship Committee

Witness/Evangelism Report

Tiffany Sorrentino

In 2018 Welcome and Witness has the goal of manning the information kiosk after every service to give visiting guests information about our programs, missions, and a gift. It will be added to the Sunday Servants schedule and is a new opportunity to serve our church and greet our guests.

I am thankful for your warm and welcoming spirit. Time after time it is what we are told that sets us apart from other churches, and helps our guests make the decision to become members and join our church family. Please continue to wear your nametag, and to introduce yourselves to our guests.

We welcomed 30 new members into our church this year. Thank you to everyone who helped with the new member congregational potluck receptions in April and September.

Continuing to unleash Salt and Light in 2019,
Tiffany (with Joe, Braden, and Evan's help!) Sorrentino
Witness/Evangelism Committee Chair

Social Ministry Report

Betsey Ellingsen

2018 has been a very active year for the Social Ministry Committee. Our mission is to share God's love for us by serving others. CLC is a generous congregation, and it has been our pleasure to organize this generosity.

We started off the year by collecting coats for the Cobb County Police Department. We collected money for our Lenten Discipline which benefited the Out of Darkness program.

We helped pack kids' summer lunches for the YMCA. We sponsored both our first Red Cross Blood Drive in recent years and a Tupperware fundraiser which benefitted our partners in Arsim, Kenya.

We participated in the Cobb County Diaper Day, donating 8700 diapers.

Our Christmas activities included the Giving Tree, the Lutheran Services of Georgia Hope Tree, the MUST Toy Shoppe, and buying gifts for clients of Cobb Street Ministries.

On top of all this, we collected items—food and otherwise—for both MUST and Cobb Streets, served monthly meals at MUST's food ministry and cooked and delivered food to Cobb Street!

Wow! The members of this Committee lovingly donated their time and energy. I will no longer be the Council Member representing this wonderful group, but I will remain a member. The new Social Ministry Council leader will be Ms. Paula Bode.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsey Ellingsen

Fellowship Committee Report

Lois Minta

In 2018, Christ Lutheran conducted a survey. With the results of the survey, we found out our fellow church members wanted to participate in more events outside of our church walls. We listened and planned these well-attended events. In July, we hopped on a bus to the Braves game. It was a steamy day, but we almost witnessed a no-hitter game. In August, a group of members cheered on the United Atlanta game which was a first for many to see a professional soccer team. The final event is taking place in December when 50 members are attending Handel's Messiah at the Atlanta Symphony.

The Fellowship Committee also hosted Lenten meals, annual church picnic, Trunk or Treat, and the annual Christmas Party. We look forward to planning more events in 2019!

God Bless!
Lois Minta

Highlights for this year:

January – Met with planning contractor CDH to go over options of Phase 1 Expansion of the Church on existing property. This was approved in 2017.

March – Workday at Church 3/24. We cleaned up the CLC grounds.

April – Set up for Easter celebrations.

May – Submitted concept drawing for external expansion of Church building at a congregational meeting. We also formed a building committee for future Phase 2 Expansion.

August – Phase 2 Expansion funding approved. Church phone system upgraded. Thanks for help from Jim Boucher. The playground saw improvements with new mulch and a bench. Thanks for help from Evan Barrett.

September – First building committee meeting with CDH to start Phase 2 interior expansion design ideas.

October – Parking lot resurfacing and restriping completed. Thanks for help from Jim Englehart. Unfortunately, the Holt house was inspected and found that it is in bad condition.

November – Workday 11/10 to remove items from Holt House. Council approved funding for house removal which will give us more room for the future Church expansion project.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roger Ridings

2018 has been a productive year for Christian Education at Christ Lutheran Church. Thanks be to God for his blessings which has enabled our congregation to make this a successful year for our youth.

The Youth Education programs were expanded by the addition of Jenny VanRensselaer as the Director for our 0-5-year old youth. A children's choir blessed our church once again during this past year and we are looking forward to the continued blessing. We were also able to have an informal youth group, bringing middle and high school youth together socially to fellowship as well as share blessings with others through service. Our High School youth were able to take another mission trip, this time to New Orleans, led by Pastor Tim Wrenn and Sherri Christian. Our youth had an opportunity to share God's love in many ways specifically with other youth as they volunteered at a youth center.

In addition to the mission trip, the Christian Education committee sponsored the Easter Egg Hunt, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation luncheon, Sunday School kickoff, Christmas Program, and a Birthday Party for Jesus. The Sunday School kickoff gave our youth a chance to meet and greet in a festive atmosphere as they prepared for the new school year.

Five students were confirmed, and blankets were presented to four high school graduates as they prepared to go off to college.

Adults have had added opportunities to expand their education through the addition of multiple bible study/Sunday school classes. The year began with retreats for both men and women which proved to be successful. Our youth will conclude the year with the annual Christmas Program and will also have an opportunity to fellowship socially.

We look forward to continuing God's work in 2019!

Maxine Langford

Christ Lutheran Church

Marietta, Georgia

Church Staff

Rev. Tim Wrenn
Jenni VanRensselaer
Marianne Mabry
Sandi Barrett
Scotty York
Jean Fiester
Darlene Nugen
Janice Gunn
Shelby Cadwallader

Pastor
Director of Children's Ministry
Office Manager
Handbell Choir Director
Choir Director
Organist
Sexton
Nursery Assistant
Nursery Assistant

2018 Officers

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Financial Secretary

Michael Mahler
Tom Mabry
Deb Rogers
Michelle Shuttty
Joycelyn Crane-Moore

2018 Congregation Council

President
Vice President
Christian Education
Witness/Evangelism
Property
Social Ministry
Secretary
Worship
Finance and Budget
Fellowship
Stewardship

Michael Mahler
Tom Mabry
Maxine Langford
Tiffany Sorrentino
Roger Ridings
Betsey Ellingsen
Deb Rogers
Sue Burkhart
Scott Christian
Lois Minta
Artie Kappel