

LMC ANNUAL REPORT 2019



FROM PASTOR LINDSAY

As I look back at 2019, I am deeply grateful for the faithfulness, generosity and commitment of our church community. While the details of running a church can be consuming, in LMC I see the love of Jesus.

- I see a group of people that dropped everything to build a ramp into the sanctuary when our elevator broke shortly before Christmas.
- I see a Maundy Thursday service with several new families that stepped up to lead the foot-washing ceremony.
- I see a praise band that led a powerful memorial service for the community when one of their beloved members unexpectedly died.
- I see new faces in adult book studies that dig into scripture.
- I see church leaders who mobilized to provide a safe space for the Waters Elementary School Community after a teacher was accused of sexual abuse.
- I see children quietly hanging origami animals on a tree during the season of Lent.
- I see a church with a steady stream of visitors who are welcomed and encouraged whether they come once or decide to join.
- I see hundreds of visitors welcomed into the church during Open House Chicago.
- I see breaking bread groups, dozens of people making and serving food on Wednesday night in the kitchen and our sidewalks trimmed with rainbow flags during pride week. In LMC, I see Jesus.

As we look forward to 2020, I'm confident that the Holy Spirit will continue to share God's light with one another and our community.

It is a tremendous gift of grace to serve as pastor at LMC. Each Sunday I am refreshed and inspired by the community and the worship. I give thanks for our talented staff. I give thanks for Kevin Dill, our sexton who served during 2019. In addition, great thanks go to Eron Dupree, Don Erickson, Amy Karp, Leo Meere, Liza Micelli, Deaconess Claire Schoepp and Heather Vanderberg. I give thanks for them, for you, and for the opportunity to serve in such a dynamic and open congregation.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Lindsay



WORSHIP

Engaging worship deepens our relationship with God and prepares us to go into the world to share the love of Jesus.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship in 2019 saw the use of several different themes and sermon series that asked us to look at how God is at work in our lives and how we can live into the promise of Jesus. During Lent, we asked what things in our lives we could cultivate and what things we should let go. In tandem with the theme of Faith and Family Week, through summer we explored how we could live a compassionate life before asking ourselves in the fall, "What do disciples do?" Finally, through Advent and Christmas we asked, "What can't wait?" God didn't wait to give us his perfect love. What are we waiting for?

ANY GIVEN SUNDAY (BY THE NUMBERS)

- ~140 average weekly attendance between services
- 17 people serving in worship
- 22 musicians singing/ringing/playing
- 39 kids in Sunday School
- 12 adults helping across our child, youth, and family ministries
- 3 volunteers for coffee hour

OTHER WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

This year, our youth planned and led Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, and Pentecost worship. We slowed down mid-week with Lenten and Advent Vespers. Holy Week Worship included a table service on Maundy Thursday as well as Good Friday and Easter Vigil services while Christmas Eve was a packed house with many friends and neighbors joining us to celebrate Christ's birth.



MUSIC MINISTRIES

Music is an integral part of our worship. Whether you attend the traditional service or the contemporary service, LMC's music ministries celebrate the diversity of our community, providing an opportunity to explore and express our faith through music.

A YEAR OF GROWTH

LMC Music Ministries celebrated increased participation throughout 2019, welcoming new members across all ensembles and adding volunteer cantors to our Sunday worship. We also added a new ensemble: The Walkers, LMC's youth band, began rehearsals in September and played/sang in worship this fall.

MUSIC FESTIVAL SUNDAY

LMC musicians came together on May 17 to lead a special worship celebrating the "Fruit of Our Spirit." We will continue this new tradition in 2020 to give thanks for our musical gifts.



SINGING SMALL GROUP

Not only does the LMC praise band lead our contemporary service with meaningful, inspiring music, they also support one another in much the same way as a traditional small group. Whether they are coming together in grief after the unexpected passing of band member Vaughn Walker or cooking up Italian favorites for a One Stop Wednesday dinner, the praise band truly functions as family.

A BUNCH OF CHARACTERS

In addition to singing in worship on the first Sunday of every month, the Children's Choir really likes to have fun. Some of their 2019 adventures include dressing up for an impromptu Halloween party and learning about all the cool features on the LMC organ.



OUR CHURCH HOME

Our building has undergone quite a transformation in the past five years. While the improvements resulting from our very successful capital campaign are winding down, there is much still to be done. We are lucky to be able to share our space with our neighbors during the week and for special events.

EVER REFORMING OUR BUILDING

2019 saw both aesthetic and structural improvements to our building. Perhaps most visible, the wood paneling and improved lighting in the Wilson Ave. red door lobby are the first steps in the path to upgrading that space. Less visible, but no less important, masonry work on the north wall of the Sanctuary building was completed to address leaks and preserve the Sanctuary for years to come. As Pastor Lindsay noted in her message opening this report, members of the Property Team dropped everything to coordinate and oversee on-going repairs to our lift over a two-week period right before Christmas and, ultimately, constructed a temporary ramp into the Sanctuary when those repairs failed. We are now in the process of establishing a fund seeded by several generous gifts to ensure the smooth operation of the lift for years to come.

OPEN DOORS

Over a beautiful weekend in October, we opened LMC's doors as part of Open House Chicago. Through this program, we were able to share our space with people from all walks of life regardless of whether or not they were looking for a church home. Over fifty LMC members came together to welcome visitors from across Chicagoland. Our talented musicians gave concerts each day and volunteers from Women's Ministries nourished our guests while raising money to feed our neighbors in need.



SHARING OUR SPACE: SPACE DONATIONS

There are a variety of nonprofits and community organizations that use our space for free or at greatly reduced rates on a weekly, monthly, or one-time event basis. 2019 beneficiaries include:

- AA Group 7
- Al-Anon
- Cub Scouts
- Manor Garden Club
- Ravenswood Gardens HOA
- LaLeche League
- Thursday Playgroup
- Waters Elementary School

FAITH LIFE

No matter what age, faith life at LMC seeks to form people as disciples to empower them to go out into the world to be beacons of God's love and light.

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult education takes many forms at LMC. 2019 saw the continuation of many vibrant small groups as well as seasonal book studies and self-guided devotional offerings. This Advent, Pastor Lindsay began leading a book study between services on the first and third Sunday of the month. It is our goal in 2020 to continue the first and third Sunday pattern with additional book studies, presentations, and guided discussions. Additional 2019 adult education programs included:

- Wired Word
- Women's Ministry Monthly Small Groups
- Tuesday Night Small Group
- Lenten Book Study
- Advent Book Study
- Lunch with Luther
- Seasonal Devotionals

LUNCH WITH LUTHER

Lunch with Luther is a monthly discussion group for our senior members. Discussion centers around the upcoming lectionary texts, but also gives participants a chance to catch up with one another and with Pastor Lindsay, sharing honest discussions of faith and supporting one another along the way.



MEN'S RETREAT



2019 also saw dedicated men's retreat. Who says retreats are always serious?

FAITH LIFE

CHILD, YOUTH, AND FAMILY

The Child, Youth, and Family Team fosters spiritual growth from birth through college, supporting both young people and their parents. Some 2019 highlights from the team:

SOME NUMBERS

Baptisms: 13

Program Registrations: 76

2019 Confirmands: 5

High School Youth: 16

Volunteers: 36 (not including special events)

We celebrate the growth of a book club specifically for families with little ones. It is a joy to see people get to know one another better while digging into the challenges and joys of parenting in faith guided by such classics as "Is That Poop on My Arm?" We are most grateful for those who host these gatherings, those who babysit on site so that the adults can have meaningful conversation, and those who complete the not-small task of making it out of the house on a Saturday morning with children under three!



In it's second year, LMC Faith & Family Week brought together grandparents, parents, and kids of a large variety of ages to put Faith in Action. We did a lot. For example, we learned about (and tasted!) Fair Trade Chocolate with the help of Ten Thousand Villages from Evanston. We made sleep mats for persons experiencing homelessness. We handed out free water in Lincoln Square on one of the hottest days of the year. As we sat and handed out bottle after bottle that sweltering evening, we learned a little about what it means to be God's hands and feet in this world in a practical way.



LMC youth made two trips to Lutherdale in 2019. First, the seventh and eighth graders enjoyed a wet and wild Confirmation Camp during Lutherdale's Water Week. Then, both confirmation and high school youth returned in the fall for the synod-wide youth retreat, "(un)lawful: unpacking the Ten Commandments." It's not often you get down on the ground for an activity with the Bishop!

REACHING OUT

In a recent sermon, Pastor Lindsay reminded us that "as people of God, we are called to one another, to alleviate one another's pain . . . to hope for one another . . . and to be the hands and feet and heart of Jesus to one another." Here are just a few ways we answer that call.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

This year we observed Reconciling in Christ Sunday in conjunction with Pride Weekend in June. We began the day chalking the sidewalk with messages of love and acceptance and worshiped with a special blessing and sending for those attending the day's Pride Parade where we marched with the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches. The weekend prior, LMC's Faith and Justice Team organized an outing to PrideFest.



The Faith and Justice Team was busy this summer. In addition to organizing LMC's outing to PrideFest, the team planned and executed LMC's first ever Juneteenth Celebration. With food, music, and crafts, we shared cultures and celebrated the emancipation of over 3.9 million black people in this country.



PEACE WITH JUSTICE

LMC continued the monthly vigil for peace in the Middle East as part of the ELCA's Peace Not Walls Project. In conjunction with the Peace Vigil, we hosted Dr. Muther Isaac, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bethlehem who spoke about the Palestinian Christian perspective of the Israel/Palestine conflict .

REACHING OUT

RAISING AWARENESS

LMC's Women's Ministries were instrumental in calling our attention to marginalized peoples in 2019. In partnership with the Faith and Justice Team, Women's Ministries brought leadership from The Dreamcatcher Foundation to LMC in April to speak on human trafficking. Later that spring, Women's Ministries organized the annual Rachel's Day Sunday focusing this year on children and teens impacted by gun violence.

ST. PAULS HOUSE

This fall and winter we twice partnered with St. Pauls House to bring holiday spirit to their senior residents. Around Halloween, a group of young families Reverse Trick or Treated with the St. Pauls residents bringing them sweet treats and completing a craft. We returned at Christmas for our annual caroling event.



OUTSIDE GIVING

Each year, we raise money and gifts in kind for a wide variety of organizations beyond our regular offering. Some of our 2019 projects included:

- Meals and hygiene kits for The Night Ministry
- Lenten Vespers offering for Apna Ghar
- Advent Vespers offering for God's Closet
- Offering for Dreamcatcher Foundation
- Multiple events benefiting The Friendship Center
- ELCA World Hunger and LSSI love offerings
- Anonymous donation in LMC's Name to Waters Elementary
- Rachel's Day book collection for Bernie's Book Bank
- Bracket Challenge for Charity
- The Friendship Center pet food drive

This list is not exhaustive and does not include donations of our space that are detailed elsewhere in this report.

COMMUNITY

How do you report on a year's worth of community when every single person who walks through the doors at LMC is a vital part of our social fabric? Community is so much more than the work of a single ministry team. It is the smile given to a visitor when they walk through the doors and an invitation to coffee hour. It is a meal train for someone who is recovering from surgery and making meals for One Stop Wednesday. It is the big events - Rally Day RibFest, the PreThanksgiving Dinner, the Women's Ministries Chili CookOff - but it is also Breaking Bread groups, team meetings, and impromptu conversations on the stairs. It is holding each other as we celebrate new life and mourning those who have left us. See for yourself. See Jesus in LMC.



COMMUNITY



2019 LEADERSHIP

EXECUTIVE TEAM

TOIETTA DIXON, PRESIDENT
EMILY MOEN, VICE PRESIDENT
LARRY GEHRKE, SECRETARY
PETE PRESTIPINO, TREASURER

COUNCIL

MELISSA BUSCH
JEFF CONWAY
AUDREY DOWNS
KIM GLASFORD
DAVE GOSS
MATT VOLMERDING

STAFF

PASTOR LINDSAY MACK, PASTOR
ERON DUPREE, MUSIC DIRECTOR
DONALD ERICKSON, YOUTH DIRECTOR
AMY KARP, FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR
LEO MEERE, ORGANIST
LIZA MICELLI, DIRECTOR OF CONTEMPORARY
MUSIC
DEACONESS CLAIRE SCHOEPP, DIRECTOR OF
CHILD AND FAMILY MINISTRY
HEATHER VANDERBERG, DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION



LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

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