

Annual Report of Luther Memorial Church

For the 2017 Annual Meeting



*The 2018 Annual Meeting will take place on **January 28th at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall** following a combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. This report contains documents for review in advance of that meeting, including:*

- *The Agenda for the 2018 Annual Meeting*
- *Copies of Minutes from all 2017 Congregational Meetings*
- *Reports from Ministry Staff, Administration, and Leadership Teams*

The Treasurer's report and proposed 2017-18 budget were discussed in detail at the January 14, 2018 budget meeting. Those documents are available separately.

Our Mission

Transforming Chicagoland in Christ's Name.

Our Vision

We reach people with the Gospel by **rejoicing, reforming, responding, and renewing**. We rejoice in the love of God shown through Christ in engaging worship. We reform ourselves and the world around us. We respond to our neighbor through service and advocacy. We renew our faith and support others on their faith journey.

Our Call

We **Rejoice** in the God shown through Christ. We worship fully, sing soulfully, and seek opportunities for prayer and deep conversation as God invites us to grow together. We are a church where people make worship part of their weekly habit.

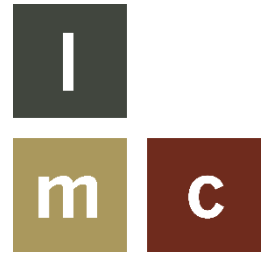
We **Reform** ourselves and our community through changing lives and being changed. We seek opportunities to be radically hospitable through our space. We are a church that is open and welcoming and will reform ourselves again and again as we grow in Christ.

We **Respond** to our neighbor and our world. We work for a world where social justice is lived and embodied as Christ embodied God's love for all. We strive for all to have food, for gun violence to cease, for equality, for the marginalized to have a voice, and for peace to thrive throughout the world.

We **Renew** our faith and the faith of all people through study, devotion, encouraging spiritual practices and lifting up spiritual gifts. We are a church who is active in faith formation. We continually renew our connections with our community partners, renewing Chicago and the world in the process.

Annual Meeting of Luther Memorial Church

+ January 28, 2018+



AGENDA

Opening Prayer

Dear God, at some point we each ask ourselves what our place or purpose is in life. We wonder what difference it makes that we exist, what our role is in the larger scheme of things. We question whether it's worth the trouble to work hard at our lives, to learn all we can, to grow into the best person we can possibly be.

The contribution we make compared to all our efforts may seem very small. But all large, important things are made up of many small, seemingly insignificant parts. Every person is part of the world, of human history, of the energy of the planet and the universe. Give us the good judgment to work together as pieces for the whole of your world. **Amen.**

Approval of Minutes from Congregational Meetings Held in 2017

Pastor Report

President Report

Stewardship Team Report

Investment Team Report

Election of Treasurer

Treasurer's Report and Vote to Approve 2018 Budget

Honor Outgoing Council Members Diane Betten, Christian Kern and Justin Shimko

Old Business

New Business

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Lord, thank you for all the marvelous things you have done today. Thank you for the love that you have revealed to us, and for the love that we share together as your body. Fan into flame the gifts that you have given us, and as we leave this place now, thank you that you walk with us. May we be alert to your promptings and live in your endless love. For yours is the kingdom, the power and glory in this age and forevermore. **Amen.**



Minutes of 2017 Congregational Meetings For Approval

Minutes of the LMC Annual Congregational Meeting 2017

In Attendance: 58

Meeting opened at 11:27am, Jan. 22, 2017

Convene meeting in Prayer: Dave Byerly

1. **Approval of Minutes from Congregational Meetings Held in 2016:** Jay Kapp moves to approve minutes. Diane Betten seconds. Unanimous approval
2. **Call Team Update:** Bill Phillips provided an update that three new candidates have been presented to call team and they are proceeding forward. Toietta Dixon has stated that she is thrilled with the way the call committee has handled the situation of the first nominee dropping out and moving forward.
3. **Capital Improvements Update:** Misti Peppler announced kitchen demo is Feb. 4 & 5 and invites anyone to come and help dismantle the kitchen. The asbestos abatement will occur the following week, meaning the basement activities are closed during that week and activities will be relocated or cancelled. There are several projects in line for the coming year through the capital campaign, especially in the summer.
4. **Honor Outgoing Investment Team Member Susan Barreto:** Audrey Downes recognized Barreto for her work on the Investment Team and LMC as a whole.
5. **Election of New member to Investment Team:** Nominating Team announced Wayne Busch as the nomination. Unanimously elected.
6. **Election of Treasurer:** Ben Dieterich agrees to be Treasurer for another year. Unanimously elected.
7. **Stewardship Team Announcement:** Jay Kapp provided an update on Capital Campaign and Miracle Sunday activities. The collections from Miracle Sunday enabled LMC to end the year in the black on our budget, the second year in a row and fourth out of five years. Provided update on volunteer work in the past year.
8. **Treasurer's Report and Vote to Approve 2017 Budget:** Ben Dieterich discussed the budget proposal as well as financial report from the past year. Praised the congregation for their dedication to sustaining the programs and maintain a steady operating budget. The 2017 budget proposal is essentially flat from 2016, enabling programs to continue and move forward with welcoming a new pastor. Megan Roddy moved to approve 2017 Budget. Joe Jensen seconded. Unanimously approved.
9. **Honor Outgoing Council Members Dave Byerly and Misti Peppler:** Jay Kapp recognized the new members elected in October and thanked Byerly and Peppler for their work on Council.
10. **Old Business:** Thanks to Kurt Mathessieus for his help with keeping LMC clean.
11. **New Business:** Bill Phillips asked about the LMC website. Jeff Conway provided an update on the website. Also discussed the upcoming new brand that will be released. Dixie Downes asked who will approve the design the brand. Susan Barreto made recommendation of handling media updates in the immediate future.
 - a. Leadership Summit will be held on March 25.
12. **Closing Prayer and Adjournment: Dave Byerly.**

Meeting adjourned at 12:09pm.

Luther Memorial Church
Special Congregational Meeting – July 23, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Opened in Prayer, led by Pastor Martha at 11:30am.

Jay Kapp, Council President stated the purpose of the meeting was to vote on whether LMC should extend a call to Pastor Lindsey Mack to become the full time pastor of Luther Memorial Church.

Mr. Kapp read the portions of the LMC Constitution pertaining to the rules around the definition of eligible voters, and the voting process. This was followed by the presentation of the Resolution of Nomination of Pastor Lindsey Mack by Jeff Conway, Secretary of LMC council.

After confirmation of a quorum, The Call team, represented by Mindi Schoof and Dave Goss, provided a report on the nominee to the congregation.

Angie Cooper appointed tellers, and ballots were distributed to the congregation.

Upon the counting of the ballots, and in accordance to the LMC Constitution, the motion to extend a call to Pastor Lindsey Mack was approved by the voting members in attendance.

Meeting closed in prayer.

Minutes of the LMC Special Congregational Meeting October 22, 2017

Convened meeting in prayer led by pastor Lindsey.

Purpose of the meeting:

Jay Kapp stated the purpose of the council meeting is to elect two (2) new members to the LMC Council. While terms will start in 2018, the early election will provide new council members an opportunity to appropriately onboard, and shadow the council for a couple of meetings.

Stewardship Update:

Melissa Busch provided the congregation with an update on 2017 giving.

- In 2017, we have been under giving as a congregation, based on past years
- It was noted that as a congregation, we have experienced normal attrition, but we have not experienced much additional giving
- In 2016 miracle Sunday closed a 30k budget gap, with 40K in giving
- Stewardship is introduced a campaign that asked 100 households to consider an increase in pledged giving for 2018. To date, there is a 20k commitment. Stewardship is asking members to consider giving an extra \$700/family
- Jay Kapp noted that we have the funds to cover the projected debt we have money cover the year
- Toietta Dixon commented that, while we have investments, we don't want to have to tap into.

Election of council members:

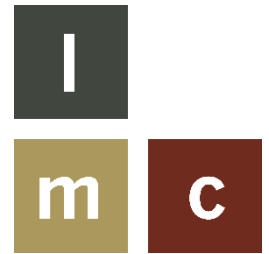
Justin Shimko noted that we have 3 council members going off, two coming on.

- Christian Kern, Diane Betten and Justin Shimko are all stepping down
- Two members were nominated for Council positions
 - Larry Gehrke – served on council in 1996-2002
 - Emily Moen - became a member in 2016
- The floor was opened floor to nominations additional nominations by Jay Kapp - no one respond
- Joe Jensen proposed we vote as a slate and approve by acclamation
- The congregational vote was unanimous. Larry Gerhke and Emily Moen will each be joining Council, terms will begin in 2018.

The meeting was closed in Prayer by Justin Shimko.

Annual Report of Luther Memorial Church

Pastor's Report



Dear church,

May God's peace and purpose surround and fill your hearts in this new year of 2018!

2018 has been an eventful year for the LMC congregation. You've completed a phase of the capital campaign building project. You've become more empowered as a congregation as you prepared to transition to ministry with a new pastor. You've called a new pastor. And in the mist of it all, God's steadying and creative spirit continues to move through this place.

In the Easter story of the Road to Emmaus, Jesus encounters the disciples as they walk to Emmaus. The disciples just lost Jesus to the crucifixion and are devastated. They are processing as they walk, when suddenly, Jesus joins them and walks with them. Jesus asks them what they're talking about. He asks them about their story. He listens.

In the mist of all of the many, many activities and happenings at LMC, I think of this story. I consider myself to be on a bit of a listening campaign this first year in ministry with you. I value the stories as I get to know you.

As the disciples and Jesus walked together on the road to Emmaus, they didn't walk alone. I am grateful to be in a congregation where the staff and I do ministry *with* you. This is evidence of God's presence.

- God is present when you take the bread and wine and visit the homebound as Eucharistic ministers.
- God is present in your service with the youth and confirmation programs, and in your service to the lonely when you meet with them as Stephen's ministers.
- God is present in your service as ushers, lectors and acolytes at Sunday worship.
- God is present when you share your gifts as members of the praise band, the children's choir, chancel choir and bell choir.
- God is present when you collect benevolence offerings for the World Hunger Appeal, the Friendship Center and God's closet.
- God is present as you patch up leaks in the pipes, design banners that invite people to worship at Christmas, and arrange the flowers before Sunday worship.
- God is present, dear LMC members, as you teach Sunday school, connect during the play group on Wednesday mornings, host coffee hour, sing Christmas carols in the nursing home, and host the parents of infants and toddlers in your home for brunch.
- God is present in cottage meetings, in the staff meetings, in the thoughtful questions you raise in the monthly church council meetings.

- God is present when you share the peace during worship, ask hard questions of the Bible stories, and ask about the member who is sick who hasn't shown up to worship for a while.
- God is present in the extravagant welcome of a visitor Sunday morning, and in the conversation that happen over a One Stop Wednesday meal.
- God is present as you fix the computers, cook the turkeys, count the offering and bring the treats for coffee hour.
- God is present when you ask about the new pastor's family, share your story with her and invite her into your lives.

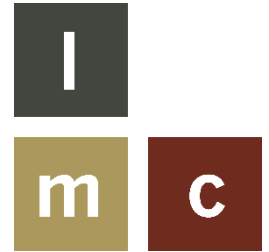
God is alive and moving in this place! As we move into the new seasons of Lent and Holy week, I'm grateful to learn, to listen, to lead and simply, to be here. It has been a joy to serve as your pastor over the last four months. I look forward to the many conversation such as the ones about social justice and small group ministries that are to come. How will we continue to put our faith into action? Where is God calling us? How will we be salt and light in this city?

Blessed by the journey,

Pastor Lindsay Mack

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Administration Report



LMC In Transition

This year marked a year of administrative challenge as we prepared to say goodbye to Pastor Martha Halls, helped to steer our ship through 8-weeks of transition, and welcomed and on-boarded Pastor Lindsay. During each step in our transition process the LMC office has functioned as an information desk, a sounding board, a hand-holder and counselor to some, a building help desk, a worship planner, and on and on. The assistance of volunteers and the work of our bookkeeper Amy Karp cannot be lauded enough as we all worked together to keep the balls in the air and minimize the impact of transition on the day-to-day life of LMC.

Leadership transition was not the only change to the administration of LMC this year. Our office technology was significantly upgraded this year with the acquisition of a new copy machine leased from Cannon Business Solutions. The new Cannon machine is both more reliable and less expensive (on a per-copy basis) than our old machine. In addition, two new computers were purchased for the office and were hard-wired into our network allowing for faster, smoother, and more stable electronic work environments. Lastly, a new phone system was acquired that allows for a separate voicemail box for Pastor Lindsay as well as ensures that she has consistent access to a working phone. Thank you to Justin Bush, Joe Jensen, and Matt Volmerding for their invaluable assistance getting our new technology up and running as well as to the LMC Council for recognizing the value in bringing our office up to current IT standards.

Of course, in the midst of transition, we embarked on major construction projects throughout our space. Amy spent a significant amount of time making sure that all of our bills were paid in timely fashion while Heather confirmed that all of the appropriate paperwork and files were in place, interfaced with contractors who were in the building (you'd be amazed at the things that contractors need throughout the day), worked with our building consultant Dan Ruzic of Chicago Project Management to prepare for building team meetings, and ensured that all of our internal programs as well as those of our external users were accommodated to the best of our abilities.

Building Use

This year was a challenge from a building use perspective in light of the significant construction impacts from May through September. We are grateful for the patience and flexibility of our long-time space partners including AA, Al-Anon, Anna Torgerson (piano teacher) and Lincoln Square Fencing. With the completion of construction, we have already seen an uptick in requests for use of our new and improved space.

A sampling of organizations using space (some on-going; some one-time) in 2017:

Alcoholics Anonymous
Al-Anon
Anna Torgerson, piano teacher
Chicago Baseball Coalition
Cub Scout Pack 3894
Greater Rockwell Organization

La Leche League
Lincoln Square Fencing
Manor Square Garden Club
Ravenswood Garden Home Owners Association
Tzedek Chicago
Waters Elementary School

Weekly Communications

We continue to improve and update our weekly communications. Prior to the 2017 Leadership Conference, the Communications Team created an LMC Communications Users Guide that was distributed to team leaders to assist in the smooth publication of our weekly communications. If you would like a copy, please contact Heather (office@lmcchicago.org) and she will be happy to send one your way.

- **Electronic Newsletters** Both of our electronic newsletters were updated the year to reflect our new brand identity and to focus on the colors and look and feel of that brand.
- **Bulletin and Worship Announcements** The number and scope of our bulletins have not changed significantly from 2017. That means we're still running ~9,450 bulletins per year with unique announcement and inserts in bulletins as space and time permit.
- **Facebook** We continue to create and share content on our official FB page on a weekly basis. 2018 will present new challenges as you may have heard that FB is making changes that will significantly decrease the reach of organization and business FB pages on individual newsfeeds. We are actively investigating how to keep our reach as wide as possible. In the meantime, you are encouraged to actively check the LMC FB page instead of relying on items to appear in your Newsfeed.

Volunteers

Many thanks to those who help (or who have offered to help) with office tasks. A special thank you to AnnaLisa Lunn, Diane Betten, and Pat Kallio who keep our Sanctuary stocked and straight and to Diane Betten and Mike and Deb Renda for scheduling our worship servers. To the rest of our fantastic volunteers, like a celebrity at an awards show, we will certainly, but unintentionally, leave someone out. So please know that we value each and every one of you and are so grateful for your service even if we don't "name names" here.

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Child and Family Ministries Report



Celebrations

- We had 8 babies baptized in 2017!
- We began a 'tween ministry at One Stop Wednesdays with about 10-12 youth and 8 parent volunteers.
- We ran background checks for 38 individuals this fall which means we have grown by 10 volunteers who have gone through our Child Protection Plan training.
- We continue to support and grow the Little Neighbor's Playgroup, a great place for connections in the neighborhood that is entirely volunteer led.
- Sunday School attendance has become more consistent over the past year with fewer outlier days.
- We had **new** Frolic Events like Parent's Night Out and Frolic Family Brunch hosted in members' homes.
- Volunteers continue to host the LMC Clothing Swap 2 times a year which is a beautiful gift to members of our congregation and through us, others in the larger neighborhood and community.

Needs

- A new rocking chair for the nursery.
- Donations of money for new area rugs for the Sunday School.
- Some new volunteers to continue to help grow the Frolic programming for families with little ones.
- Some more nursery volunteers. You don't have to have children to volunteer in the nursery. We love intergenerational opportunities.

Hopes

- To continue to encourage a mentorship mentality in all volunteers.
- To encourage more intergenerational connections.
- To continue to develop together with the new ministry staff (with input from Council & families) a strategic plan for children, youth, & family ministries over the course of a couple years.
- To continue to grow the Service & Spirit Initiative of this year (increasing focus on service projects and prayer as a part of Sunday School)

Dates

- Eggstravaganzaz! -- March 31, 2017
- LMC Family Week-- June 25-29

A Few More Numbers

Fed & Forgiven

- 9 kids
- 6 adults
- 2 delighted staff people
- 9 loaves of bread & lots of grape juice

Eggstravaganza!

- 8 volunteers
- 12 families donating treats
- Many peep dioramas
- Dozens upon dozens of eggs dyed
- 200+ eggs hidden by teen volunteers

Rally Day 2017 by the Numbers

- 4 kitchen volunteers
- 4 men sang in a quartet
- 130+ ate and were merry
- 18 listed volunteers
- 2 service project opportunities & 2 community partnerships
- More people helped day of & many made sides
- Received \$1,303; spent \$792.79; total donation: **\$510.21**

LutherFest

- 100 people came and enjoyed an afternoon of drama, crafting, eating, and playing
- 4 Teams Working Together: Drama Ministry; Women of the ELCA (WELCA);

Team Members

- **2017-2018 Sunday School:** Lori Goss, Angie Cooper, Aaron Weiss, Sonja Martinez, Laurie Nelson, Vicki Thoms, Melanie Shank, Ben Campana, Megan Roddy, Vaughn Walker, Casey McMillin; **Subs:** Suzanne Bench, Bill Phelps, Melissa Bush, Jill Brown Smith, Michael Dixon
- **Child, Youth & Family Teams:** Diane Schulte, Megan O'Connell, Angel Heinz, Megan Roddy, Emily Haite, Dave Goss, & Jeff Shank
- **Playgroup:** Bethany Simmons & Mindi Schoof
- **Clothing Swap:** Mindi Schoof & Bethany Simmons
- **Frolic:** Angel Heinz, Rebecca Ryan, Rachel Kern, & Christian Kern
- **Nursery:** Miriah Volmerding, Matt Volmerding, Sarah Graff, Jeff Bensch, Paula Giovacchini, Rebecca Ryan, Bethany Simmons, Mindi Schoof, Audrey Downes, Suzanne Bensch, Eliina Vile-Pritzker, Laura Baker, Kurt Drain, Christian Kern, Rachel Kern, Angel Heinz; **Staff:** Bernadette Hagen, Rachel Haraldsen

Children, Youth & Family; and Reformation 500

- 20+ volunteers & staff
- \$200 in expenses covered from a Thrivent Action Team Grant
- Lots of costumes
- More homemade pretzels than can be counted
- Received ~\$140 in donations

Christmas Caroling at St. Paul's House

- 1 Parent Leader
- 3 Helpful Sunday School teachers for practice
- 16 children + 12 adults
- 12+ residents of St. Paul's House

Christmas Program

- 15 children's choir members
- 11 Readers
- 16 adult choir members
- 13 PreK – K Sunday School singers
- 19 First – Fourth Grade Sunday School singers
- 7 Fifth – Eighth Sunday School singers
- 4 snack volunteers
- 10 Sunday School Team adult leaders
- Other various "day of" volunteers
- 1 bulletin board designer
- 200+ members attending worship in support of children in leadership at LMC

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Communications Team Report



Team Members: Laura Baker, Jeff Conway, Amanda Yu Dieterich, Heather Vanderberg Schupp, Matt Volmerding

Additional Support and Volunteers: Joe Jensen

Update:

In 2017, the Communications Team continued to focus on enhancing and streamlining communications and outreach to LMC members and the surrounding community.

Key initiatives and outcomes in 2017 included:

- 1) Introduction of New LMC brand identify and brand guidelines
- 2) Roll-out of New LMC website
- 3) Updated look to News and Notes
- 4) Updated Sunday bulletin
- 5) Introduction of Google Drive for storage and archive
- 6) Expanded LMC social presence on Facebook
- 7) New Advent/holiday banners

After working with an outside design firm, Scout Design in the fall of 2016, a new brand identity and corresponding brand guidelines were introduced at the February Leadership Summit.

In conjunction with the introduction of the brand identity, an updated email template for News and Notes was rolled out.

At the Leadership Summit the communications team hosted a session that focused on best practices for use the new Google Drive as a central location for collaboration and archive of LMC committee information.

In March, the new LMC website went live. The website, built on Concordia Technologies 360 Unite CMS platform provides the congregation a flexible web platform that offers new features including a Calendar for daily activities congregational and church activities. Throughout the year, new pages and sections have been added to the site, most recently the Announcements section.

In addition to the LMC Website, the LMC Chicago Facebook Page continues to be an active online community with 416 followers.

For the Advent Season, new Banners, designed by Laura Baker and Joe Jensen, were hung to celebrate the holiday season.

2017 Website Stats:

- 3796 unique sessions
- 2956 of the sessions were from visitors in Chicago.
- There were 10,382 page views. The top five most popular pages include:
 - Home Page: 3457 views
 - Calendar: 1034
 - Staff: 1023
 - Worship: 552
 - Believe: 532
- Visitor Demographics
 - 60% female, 40% male
 - 27% - between the ages of 35-44
 - 23 % - between the ages of 25-34
 - 19% between the ages of 45-54
 - 15% between the ages of 55-64
 - 10% 65+
 - 6% between the ages of 18-24
- The iPhone was the most popular device used to access the site

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Congregational Care Team Report



Congregational Cares Ministry:

- This group was formed after several crises within our church where members of our church were passionate that we needed to have a Christ centered plan in place instead of reacting to crisis.
- The Core Value statement of this group is as follows: Inspired by the life of Jesus, we are called to show love and compassion for all people. As people of God, we respond to all children of God by showing compassion and support during times of crisis. While support does not mean accepting responsibility or liability for the situation, it does mean to boldly, mercifully, serve those in need.
- Rob Klein, Toietta Dixon, Jenny Araujo, Rebecca Heneghan and Pastor Martha put in a lot of time and effort to develop LMC's Crisis Response Protocol. After an open meeting with the congregation and discussion with council, this protocol is in place for future needs.
- The current Congregational Care Team is:
 - Jenny Araujo
 - Toietta Dixon - Council Liaison
 - Emily Haite
 - Rebecca Heneghan - Team Leader
 - Rob Klein
 - Pastor Lindsay Mack, ex officio
 - Carol Mergl
 - Emily Moen
 - Sara Russell

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Hospitality Team Report



Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35)

Hospitality touches all aspects of ministry at Luther Memorial Church from the building grounds, signage and website, to the first point of contact - the Ushers, the worship service (can you hear the Pastor and Lectors?) to the people in the pews. Are we friendly, do we welcome and invite the stranger to Fellowship Hour, help them find the elevator, nursery, restrooms, and introduce them to Pastor Lindsay? I read the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations by Robert Schnase and was so excited and inspired for Radical Hospitality at Luther Memorial. I then went on vacation and decided to explore hospitality at several different denominations, and felt the warm welcoming at one church (felt like I was at home) and being totally ignored and not invited to Fellowship Hour at another. This made me aware and I have had several discussions with congregants during meetings or on Sundays about their thoughts on what it means to be hospitable at LMC. We all want to participate and use our spiritual gifts and feel loved.

In 2017, we accomplished the following:

3/25 Leadership Summit – The group that joined the Hospitality table at the summit discussed how can we be an open and welcoming community. An option that everyone can do right now is either be radical and get out of our comfort zone and sit in a new pew to meet others and invite them down to Fellowship Hour, or become familiar with your current pewmates and reach out if they have not been seen in a while. If a pewmate is ill, inform Pastor or note on the yellow attendance card so we can add to the prayer list, send a card, or schedule a Eucharistic Minister visit.

August 11, 2017 Open Meeting – A meet and greet in Audrey's backyard was held for all to fellowship, welcome new members and to discuss Hospitality, how are we doing, what can we do to be better. Many suggestions with action items touching all areas of ministry evolved out of that meeting.

Fellowship Hour – In the Fall, we opened up our new Fellowship Hall after construction and we invited both services to attend at 10am. We changed the setup to include more seating and encouraged involvement from all members to either host one Sunday or provide treats. We created a procedure checklist to assist with set up/clean up in the new kitchen. There are several options for Fellowship Hour: Be a Host, Bring Treats, or Be The Host and Bring Treats for a Special Recognition Event (i.e. Birthday, Anniversary, Valentines Day, etc.). We have encouraged the youth and other ministry groups to host a special Fellowship Hour. To participate signup online at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4baea82dabfb6-fellowship>

2017 Hosts: Jill Brown Smith, Audrey Downes, Jenny Hernandez, Krista Kapp, Sarah Farmer, Jim & Marjorie Hilliard, Lara Prestipino, Sarah Lorraine, Sarah, Fiona, & Robbie McCarthy, Rachel Lauber,

Suzanne Bensch, Anneka Uresti, Megan, Will & Ben O'Connell, Renata Phelps, Diane Betten, Bette Vidina, Kurt Matthesius, and the Stewardship Committee.

Special Recognition Events: Pastor Martha Farewell to include gifts from the members (Thanks to Jay & Ellie Kapp for set up); Pastor Lindsay Mack Welcome (Thanks to Emily Haite, Misty Peppler and Heidi Shimko for coordination and flower arranging).

NameTags: Upon Pastor Lindsay joining LMC, it was important that we had nametags to make it easier for her, but we noticed it was easier for us to have a conversation with people we have seen for years, but forgot their name. We need to continually encourage all members to wear nametags. The Hospitality team also provided assistance at the pre-Thanksgiving dinner, OSW and Church services to make sure nametags were available and everyone was wearing them.

Beautification: Front Garden: Coordinated Bake Sale on 5/20 to raise funds for Front Garden plants and team planting day: Audrey Downes, Marcia Mawe and Eve McMillan. Front Garden Pots Arranged and Provided for By: Linda Miranda and Misty Peppler.

11/4 and 12/10 Usher Training: Met with current Ushers and established written procedures for 9am, 11am and High Attendance Sundays conducting two refresher trainings prior to Christmas. We are encouraging new volunteers to join this important ministry and need a lead coordinator for 11am service. Important note: LMC has an elevator and we would be happy to show you how to use it. Entrance is at street level on Campbell Avenue. Thank you to Dieter Schulte for assistance with training and showing us the safe way to walk up the steps to enter the church and how to call the elevator. Thank you to Diane Betten, Pat Kallio and Annaliese Lund for stocking the pews with pencils and envelopes on a continual basis.

12/17 - Caroling in the Neighborhood: Led by Vaughn Walker and Casey Sehr. A joyful time with LMC Members and friends sharing time together over treats and hot chocolate/hot apple cider singing carols to LMC nearby members and neighbors.

2018 Goals: We are prayerfully seeking leaders/volunteers to guide us to accomplish the below goals this year.

- Establish more Events for members to meet each other.
- Game Night in Winter on Fridays (once a month or bi-weekly).
- Establish New Member Welcome – Intimate meet and greet in volunteer host members' Homes.
- Schedule Habitat for Humanity Work Day for LMC – Spring or Fall.
- LMC Pictorial Directory.
- LMC Members read Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations by Robert Schnase (Need leader for Group discussion).
- LMC Info Card – Located in pews and back magazine rack.

Thankful for the support of the core Hospitality team: Jill Brown-Smith, Jenny Hernandez, Sarah Farmer, Sarah McCarthy, Kurt Matthesius. A special thank you to Kevin Dill for setup and breakdown of the tables every Sunday and for the delicious coffee made by Kurt.

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Human Resources Report



The Council HR Liaison works closely with the Pastor, Director of Communication and Administration, volunteers, and individual staff members. In 2017 we accomplished the following:

- Completed updates of job descriptions based on fall 2016 staff reviews
- Created/updated covenant letters for all staff based on salaries in 2017 approved budget
- Completed distribution of newly created Personnel Policy
- Completed one-year review with Pastor Martha for Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
- Participated in annual Staff/Council retreat
- Submitted 2018 aspirational budget to Stewardship Team & Treasurer
- Submitted 2018 benefit selection to Portico
- Continued to update/maintain shared HR folder on Google Drive
- Completed annual staff reviews with Pastor Lindsay
- Helped plan and execute Staff appreciation Sunday
- Provided ongoing support to Staff regarding budget, technology, benefits and other needs via phone, email and in-person meetings

There are a few action items on deck for 2018:

- Update covenant letters for all staff based on salaries in 2018 approved budget
- Review and update Personnel Policy if necessary
- Participate in annual Staff/Council retreat
- Prepare and submit 2019 budget proposal
- Keep up with benefit changes and deadlines on Portico
- Continue to maintain shared HR folder on Google Drive
- Complete annual staff reviews with Pastor Lindsay in October
- Plan and execute Staff Appreciation Sunday in December
- Continue to provide support to all Staff as needed
- Create document outlining HR duties, procedure & calendar in preparation for a new HR liaison in 2019

Angie Cooper
Council VP & HR Liaison
vicepresident@lmcchicago.org

Annual Report of Luther Memorial Church

Human Resources Report



Members: Wayne Busch, Ben Dietrich, Audrey Downes, Alphonse Gray, Dan Kopczynski, and Kevin Massey

The Luther Memorial Investment Committee serves to provide stewardship for Investment Resources of Luther Memorial Church to best nurture the funds for the mission of Christ in our Community.

In 2017, aside from scheduled meetings, the Committee was active in regularly consulting via email. The Committee's key deliberations, considerations, and decisions of 2017 include:

5/23/2017

Alphonse Gray presented a bond ladder for approval. Bonds trade like stocks. When bonds mature, we receive back liquidity. If there is an emergency, we can sell. Goal was to purchase high quality bonds with decent rates.

The Committee discussed ways the Investment Funds could assist in the projects of the Capital Campaign, as projects were a little ahead of receipts of the Campaign. Options discussed and to be shared with Council.

Regarding the Wegat Fund: Decision made to invest in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund - 3% term limit for 6 years.

9/27/2017

Committee welcomed new member Wayne Busch. Committee discussed specific action of transferring \$30,000 from Vanguard account to protect church operating margin during transition time.

Committee discussed forward looking strategic themes including: Creating staggered term limits for the committee to ensure continuity, Adopting an Investment Policy Statement, Setting Long Term Goals around increasing Planned Giving, including holding an Estate Planning Seminar at LMC, Adopting role assignments inside the Investment Committee, and a Scholarship Policy.

The committee received resignation letter from Dan Kopczynski due to his move to Madison, WI. The Mission Investment Fund interest rate was less than 2% and the Committee determined to explore other CD rate options or Bond Ladder for the Wegat Fund.

12/14/2017

The Committee discussed work in its strategic themes, then decided to pursue the bond ladder strategy with Morgan Stanley, for the Wegat Fund, to be executed by 12/20/2017.

End of the Year Account Status:

\$134K with ELCA Foundation, \$142K Wegat Fund in Bridgeview Bank and \$30K in Vanguard.

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Music Ministries Report



LMC Music Ministries

(by the numbers)

Year	Children's Choir	Chancel Choir	Handbell Choir	Praise Band	Total
2016-2017	18	16	10	7	51
2017-2018	17	21	12	7	57

*indicates members on choir "rosters"; program year runs from September to May/June

LMC Celebration Band

The LMC Celebration Band includes Sean Heneghan (Guitar & Vocals); Sarah Kovach (Piano & Vocals); Sara Russell (Vocals); Rob Klein (Guitar); Jon Pepler (Harmonica); Andres Hernandez (Percussion); and Christopher Baker (Bass Guitar). The band is thrilled to have Christopher Baker join as a regular member on the bass guitar and is grateful to Jesse Lava for filling in on guitar throughout the year.

Celebrations:

- The ability to come together every week to provide a meaningful worship experience for LMC
- Sarah Kovach and Sean Heneghan leadership
- Musical improvement of the band members as individuals and as a group

Looking Ahead:

- Continued Musical Growth (skills, balance & blending, thriving for excellence)
- Incorporating New Music and Musical Styles
- Continued Congregation Involvement (Can You Sing? Play an Instrument? Contact Sarah or Sean!)

LMC Choirs

The LMC Choir program includes three choirs: Children's, Chancel, and Handbell. The Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir participate in the 9:00am service, while the Children's Choir alternates between the 9:00am and the 11:00am services. Each choir rehearses, once a week, throughout the year during One Stop Wednesday.

Celebrations:

- Handbell Refurbishment (Summer, 2017), new black felt for tables (Fall, 2017); new stand lights (Fall, 2017)
- New Children's Choir curriculum (*All Creation Sings*, Fall 2017)
- Handbell and Chancel Choir combined piece "Lord, Teach Your Church" for Reformation Sunday
- Sunday School/Choirs presentation of *Come to the Manger: A Service of Lessons and Carols* (December 2017)

- Participation in multiple Festival Days (Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday, Reformation Sunday, All Saints, and Christmas Eve)
- Additional Musicians whom accompanied the Chancel Choir throughout the year: Jill Brown-Smith (Flute); Justin Shimko (Violin); Vaughn Walker (Trumpet); Audrey Downes, Carol Mergl, Tim Klein (Handchimes)
- Provided “Special” Music throughout the Year: Vaughn Walker; Claire Shank, Colin Phelps; Justin Shimko; Sara Russell; Rebecca Ryan; Larry Gehrke; Melissa Busch; Tim Cooper, Michael Dixon, Jamie Schupp, and Eron Dupree (Rally Day Quartet); Sarah Kovach, Justin Shimko, and Claire Schoepp (String Trio); Mariah Plawer-Volmerding, Eron Dupree, Tim Klein, and Christine Shaw (Handbell Quartet)
- Substitute Cantors: Larry Gehrke, Claire Schoepp

Looking Ahead:

- Additional Chancel Choir Members (especially Tenors and Basses)
- Addition of Handbell Quartet/Quintets throughout the year
- Continue to provide quality music, expressive of our worship services.

Behind the Scenes

With the help of the Pastor, Staff Members and choir members, much work went on behind the scenes during the past year.

Celebrations

- Handbells now predominately play from the Choir Loft during service
- Purchased missing handchime
- Children’s Choir age range changed from grades K-5 to grades K-4 (with the introduction of Club 56)
- Music Library is currently getting organized
- Music Library is moving from the basement to the 2nd Floor
- A bulletin board has been added to the music room
- Use a Box.com Account to share music files with Choir members
- Eron’s office was moved from the 1st floor and now is combined with Claire and Don on the 2nd Floor
- “From the Choir Loft” monthly newsletter sent to all choir members and families.

Looking Ahead:

- Possible creation of a “Music Team” which will dream, vision, and plan the choir programs
- Possible addition of choirs and/or expanding choir ages to encompass youth in grades 5-12.
- Continued organization of music library and purchase new music, when necessary

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Property or Build Team Report



It has been a busy year (including the good but messy summer) for building and capital campaign improvements at LMC. Some of the many accomplishments for 2017 included:

- kitchen remodeling – including new appliances, flooring, cabinets, island, LED lighting, ceiling, plumbing and drainage system updates
- Associated with Kitchen remodeling - updates to boiler room, new washer/dryer, sump pump, second floor storage room addition, exhaust fan
- Entire basement remodeling and upgrades – including asbestos abatement, new flooring, soundproof ceilings and soffits to cover exposed pipes, LED lighting, wall painting, new water main and supply pipes, radiator removal and upgrades, electrical upgrades, new sound system, new doors, fellowship roof drain replaced.
- 3rd floor Sunday school upgrades – including asbestos tile abatement, new flooring, wall painting, new Sunday School room dividers
- 2nd floor – new flooring, Chapel LED lighting; uncovering of a historic mosaic tile at the red door entrance.
- Sanctuary - roof and masonry repair, interior plaster repair, enlarged pew envelope holders, balcony stairway tile replaced
- West building repairs – masonry and tuck pointing
- Technology – new wifi, phone system
- Church entrance – new masonry fix, refinishing front doors

Whew...an amazing amount of work done!

Accomplished not only due to your wonderful Capital Campaign contributions, but also the tireless work of the Property Committee / Capital Build Team – specifically to mention Ron Meadows, Christopher Haite, Claudia Raack, Joe Jensen, Tim Klein, and our consultant Dan Ruzic.

Also, lest we forget, the very important “stewardship of volunteer work” done by the approximately 20 volunteers during Kitchen Demolition Day, 48 volunteers during Work Day, and 10 volunteers during the two Paint Day parties to paint the basement hallways and rooms and 3rd floor walls. All these volunteers saved the church thousands of dollars that would have been spent on labor costs. We are very indebted to these folks and Kevin Dill our sexton, and many, many others who have made this church work this past year in every little thing they do - small and large.

For 2018, we anticipate the following to be among the projects on our “to do” list:

- exterior masonry repairs and cleaning
- upgrading and remodeling bathrooms
- Wilson Ave/Red Door entrance upgrade and security enhancements

- fellowship hall storage area added
- backyard replant and update/install new fence
- Second floor/Chapel upgrades
- Master Storage plan implementation
- complete flooring upgrades on stairway to second floor
- new flooring on west balcony stairway

Respectfully submitted

Tim Klein

On behalf of Capital Build/Property Committee

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Stephen Ministries Report



Care Provided

- In 2017, the Stephen Ministry Team focused on providing one-to-one caring relationships with seven care receivers during times of transition, loss, and life challenge.

LMC Trained Stephen Ministers

- Toietta Dixon
- Jerry Giese
- Marjorie Hilliard (Co-Leader)
- Carol Mergl (Co-Leader, Trained Stephen Leader)
- Vaughn Walker

Looking Forward

- Goal of training three to four additional Stephen Ministers in 2018.
- Goal of sending one or more Stephen Ministers and/or staff from LMC in early 2019 to attend week long Stephen Series Leader's Training Course.
- Increasingly, coordinating efforts with other caring ministries at LMC, such as Congregational Care and Eucharistic Ministry Teams.

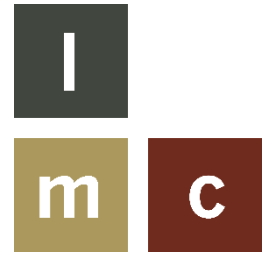
If you are interested in meeting privately with a Stephen Minister during a time of transition, please send an Email to stephenministers@lmccchicago.org or contact the LMC Office to ask a Stephen Minister Leader to reach out to you.

If you believe a member would benefit from a one-to-one caring relationship, please talk to the individual regarding your recommendation and provide them contact information above.

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please speak with Carol Mergl.

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Stewardship Team Report



In 2017, the Stewardship Team focused on the following efforts:

GIFTS OF TREASURE

Closing the Gap

The Stewardship Team coordinated and implemented a close-the-gap strategy in the Fall to help address the shortfall projected by year-end. On Oct. 15, the top 20% of giving households were invited to cocktails and conversation regarding the shortfall and to ask for their help. Following this meeting, all LMC households were asked to give \$700 each to close the gap, knowing that some could not do this and others could do much more. The Stewardship Team communicated the close-the-gap messaging through News & Notes, worship announcements and personal appeals to members. An **estimated \$44,000 in close-the-gap gifts**, over and above regular offerings, was given in October, November and December, a tremendous outpouring of faith and generosity.

Annual Pledge Campaign

The Annual pledge campaign was held in November, culminating in Pledge Sunday on November 19, 2017. The Stewardship Team worked with Amanda Dieterich from the communications team and Amy Karp, LMC's bookkeeper, to update the pledge cards with new LMC branding. An updated appeal letter was created asking members to consider a pledge for 2018 and an additional close-the-gap gift for 2017. Members were encouraged to continue giving at the level they did in 2017, including their close-the-gap gifts, and were also asked to consider increasing their 2018 pledge by 10% over their 2017 pledge/giving.

LMC members shared mission moments during Sunday services and reminders were included in News & Notes and on LMC's Facebook page leading up to Commitment Sunday. Because pledges are critical to budgeting for the year ahead, Stewardship Team members followed up with households who had not pledged yet and had either pledged in 2017 and/or currently give via Simply Giving asking them to formalize a pledge for 2018. **As of January 8, \$254,546 had been pledged to LMC for 2018 from 64 households, with 36 households increasing by 10% or more.** Thank you to everyone who pledged!

New Kitchen Registry

Team member Bates Larson worked with LMC members Misti Peppler and Emily Haite to develop a wish list of items for our newly renovated kitchen and create a gift registry that was shared with LMC members. **Over \$700 in kitchen items** have been purchased and donated to-date. Thank you to everyone who has helped fulfill our kitchen wish list.

GIFTS OF TIME AND TALENT

The Stewardship team has been actively discussing ways to help members engage at LMC through service and fellowship. This year we launched a year-round stewardship plan, **Stewards of God's Love**, focused on how we as Christians steward all of God's gifts. Each quarter focused on a specific theme, with engagement opportunities developed around each theme:

First Quarter, Relationship with God – Stewards of the Story

Brian Myers and Justin Bush organized engagement opportunities for members to begin talking about our personal and collective stories as Christians, Lutherans and members of LMC. The first was a **book club** led by Brian for the book *What We Talk About When We Talk About God* by Rob Bell.

The second engagement opportunity was **"Small Talks at Tiny Lounge,"** a regular night out at Tiny Lounge, open to all members, and providing an opportunity for us to get to know each other and begin to talk about our faith, why we are at LMC, etc. "Small Talks" is continuing in 2018 with the next Small Talks on Thursday, Feb. 15 at a new venue (Nick's Pizzas and Pub).

Second Quarter, What God Has Entrusted to Our Care – Stewards of Our Time

Team members Bates Larson and Tim Klein took the lead for the second quarter and planned two great volunteer opportunities.

On Saturday, May 20, forty-eight LMC members joined LMC's Property and Stewardship teams for an incredibly successful **Spring Workday** at Luther. Participants deep-cleaned, moved items back into renovated spaces, completed repair and refurbishing jobs and other odd jobs around the church.

On Saturday, June 17, a small group of volunteers participated in a repack session at the **Greater Chicago Food Depository** to support the Friendship Centre, a community food pantry supported by LMC.

The Stewardship Team held **Volunteer Recognition** Sunday on April 23, 2017 in conjunction with National Volunteer Week. LMC members wore name tags during Sunday services listing their volunteer roles/activities at LMC. The Stewardship Team hosted a thank-you reception during fellowship hour. Volunteer team leads were informed and given the opportunity to also thank their volunteers in some way during the week.

Third Quarter, Relationship with Our Neighbor – Stewards of Local and Global Communities

To help LMC begin to discern our personal and collective assets, how we can use these assets within and outside our walls, and better understand the issues that are most important to us, the Stewardship team held a series of **asset-mapping cottage meetings** over the summer and early Fall. Plans are in the works for additional cottage meetings in 2018, as well as a possible community meal where asset-mapping and survey (see below) results will be shared to begin talking about "what's next."

In addition, Stewardship, in conjunction with members of the Faith & Justice team, developed a **member survey** to better understand what LMC members are passionate about, how you'd like to engage within and outside our walls and to guide staff and volunteers in developing service, mission and engagement opportunities. Results have been shared with Council and will be shared with the congregation this winter.

The 3rd quarter culminated with Rally Day “**God’s Work, Our Hands**” projects. LMC members completed Fall landscape/garden clean-up at Waters Elementary; created “Birthday-in-a-Bags” for Well of Mercy (a nonprofit that provides a secure home for single, pregnant women in need while creating a program of change together); and decorated donated canned goods to be delivered to the Friendship Centre.

Fourth Quarter, Annual Financial Response – Stewards of God’s Abundance

Please see “Gifts of Treasure” above.

RECOGNITION

If anyone was inadvertently omitted from any of the efforts described below, the Stewardship Team sincerely apologizes. Please let us know so that any oversight can be corrected in the future.

- Hand-written thank-you notes were sent in January 2017 to everyone who gave in 2016;
- A formal acknowledgement letter accompanied tax receipts that were mailed in January 2017. This letter thanked members who had done any of the following in 2016: i) gave to LMC; ii) made a 2017 pledge; iii) made a Capital Campaign pledge or gift; and/or iii) volunteered at LMC;
- Mid-year update letters were sent to all households in July. These letters updated members on year-to-date giving (both pledged and unpledged); confirmed 2017 pledge amounts if applicable; and provided an update on the total amount of capital campaign giving to-date (both pledged and unpledged) if applicable.

Stewardship Team Members

Melissa Busch

Justin Bush

Tim Klein

Bates Larson

Kevin Massey

Brian Myers

Nicole VanderDoes (Council liaison)

Annual Report of Luther Memorial Church

Technology Team Report



2017 has been a big year for technology at LMC. We have upgraded and expanded the tools that will be important to future growth and have done a large portion of the work in-house (volunteer hours) to save thousands of dollars in cost.

Network and computer upgrades

At the beginning of 2017, the approved LMC network budget was \$27,000 for general coverage with Cisco and Merxia equipment and no real plan identified to include fiber into the building. The Cisco and Merxia equipment came with large licensing fees for their server platform. We researched and found Ubiquity Network system was user friendly and less expensive and by using our own volunteer hours over a period of a couple of months, we were able to pare the budget down to \$8,000 with the upgrades below:.

1. Wireless network access across the church at high speeds.
2. Hardwire internet and network to Pastor and Heather's offices.
3. Hardwire phones to Pastor and Heather's desks.
4. The ability to use any smart phone device via Zulty app to become part of the LMC phone/communication system.
5. A private staff only wireless network.
6. A public open wireless network for our parishioners and building users (completion January 2018).
7. The changing of our low bandwidth AT&T (1.5 MBps) to a fiber optic connection at (100 M b i t / s) that is expandable to (1000 MBit /s if demand ever warrants.
8. The ability to use the VOIP service Zultys and replace AT&T landlines and slow internet for a costs savings per month with much better service.
9. A new computer was purchased for the LMC office to replace outdated hardware.

Sound system

At the beginning of 2017, the downstairs sound system had a separate of budget of \$12,000 with no automation and network connection. Using volunteer hours to design a system that will work with the network, provide the manual labor and use materials previously purchased, we have achieved:

1. Sound reinforcement in:
 - a. Fellowship hall
 - b. Multi-purpose room
 - c. Nursery
 - d. Kitchen*
 - e. Sanctuary via soundboard and sanctuary system*

*Work still in progress.

2. This system will allow us to:
 - a. Play music.
 - b. Make announcements.
 - c. Easy setup of sound reinforcement for meetings and events in all the aforementioned rooms.
 - d. Recording of meetings and events.
 - e. Audio casting the sanctuary service to all aforementioned rooms.
 - f. Create podcasts of sermons easily.
 - g. Broadcast Podcasts Live.
 - h. Broadcast Podcasts at any time.
 - i. Video conference events.
 - j. Record from any of the rooms with exception of the nursery.

Lighting Fellowship Hall

Working with Tim Klein and the Capital Committee we created a low voltage lighting system for Fellowship Hall by doing the work and designing a system in house (volunteer hours) allowing us to complete this project at a fraction of the cost. This allows us to:

1. Use color accent lighting in the gym.
2. Change the intensity and color of the lights via lighting console and computer.
3. Automate the light for future events.
4. Coordinate lighting with video and sound for future events.
5. Looks cool!

Network, Sound, Lighting, Computer and Video Integration

For the network and sound system to work properly, we are installing a computer that can also act as a content creation tool and media server. Primarily, the computer controls the network, and acts as a controller for the automation of lights, network and sound. Our hope is to have volunteer hours available and funding to program the system to take commands from any credentialed smartphone, and with a few swipes on the phone, control the lights, sound and access LMC media.

Future

These tools are cornerstones in being able to use the internet as a way to expand LMC's unique vision of welcoming into the world. Broadcasts, podcasts, outside video conferences and events become a small step away. These tools need to be used or the value is wasted. Our hope is that we encourage our members to learn and use the tools in their journey to God.

Respectfully Submitted, Joe Jensen

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Women of the ELCA Report



"As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world."

Once again we started 2017 with our 7th annual chili party. Winners were

1. Bill Phelps
2. Karl Raack
3. Rebecca Heneghan

Lots of fun and a special thanks to Sean Heneghan for the wonderful music he provided.

Bold Women Sunday/Foster Care Kits – Held on February 26th. Special mention by Pastor Martha and notice in News & Notes – majority of LM women wore red on February 26. A special thanks to Christine Shaw, Diane Schulte and Vicki Thoms for their ingenuity in making tags for women to wear on Bold Women Sunday. Pictures from this successful event were posted on our bulletin board. We also worked on the LSSI Foster Care Program which was rolled out on Bold Women Sunday. Christine Shaw designed a sign-up sheet and displayed items in back of Church showing exactly what was needed for each foster care kit". We had a cut-off date and we projected filling 10 bags but actually sent 28 bags to LSSI Foster Care.

Our annual Women's Spiritual Retreat (Mar 3 & 4) in keeping with the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation was entitled "Reformed through Grace". Our guest speaker was Valora Starr, director for discipleship for the Women of the ELCA. Our one and half day retreat began with a fellowship dinner off site at Trattoria Oliveri on Friday night and then we traveled back to Techny Towers where we were lead in worship in the Africa Chapel by Pastor Martha Halls. It was a memorable experience for all who attended.

This year we again participated in the Lutheran-Catholic Annual Women's Day of Dialogue and Prayer at St. Giles Catholic Church in Oak Park, IL held in April.

The Tenth *Triennial* Convention of Women of the *ELCA* was held July 11-13, 2017, in Minneapolis, Minn. Luther Memorial was represented by Dixie Downes, Diane Schulte, Christine Shaw and Linda Miranda. Luther Memorial's WELCA group made a donation of \$150.00 to Church wide. We also collected over \$300.00 in gift cards which our delegates brought to the Convention.

Six of our Luther Memorial WELCA members attended the Metro Chicago Synod WELCA Assembly at Bethel New Life Lutheran Church located at 140 N. Lamon, Chicago on October 14, 2017. Vicki Thoms was our delegate and Linda Miranda was voted as president of the Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) of the ELCA. Many congregations within the Metropolitan Chicago Synod have thriving Women's Ministries (WELCA). SWO seeks to support and enable these groups to connect and gather, and to carry out God's work in their communities.

On October 23, 2017 the Coordinating Council of our WELCA group was given a tour of Concordia Place located at 3300 N. Whipple. It is a great location and we were very impressed with the various programs provided by this worthwhile organization.

Our WELCA group at Luther Memorial helped with the food for the LutherFest celebration held on October 28th from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Lots of good food was donated including sausages and homemade pretzels.

We continue to collect travel size toiletries for the LSSI prison and family ministry and have helped with funerals, especially for long time member, Helen Wehde on Nov 11. There were over 125 people in attendance for the luncheon after Helen's Memorial Service.

We also helped set up for our Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner on November 15th and Pastor Lindsay Mack started us off in prayer.

WELCA continues to sell fair trade products through "Lutheran World Relief/Equal Exchange."

On December 10 we held our latest Fair Trade and Bake Sale to benefit WELCA's ongoing ministries. Bringing 2017 to close, WELCA is once again partnering with Concordia Place in The Wishing Star Project which aims to provide a meaningful Christmas for Chicago children and families. Last year it was a great success.

We anxiously await for 2018 as we prepare for our Tenth Anniversary of our Women's Retreat being held on March 2 & 3rd. More to come.

Respectfully submitted by
Diane Betten, Vicki Thoms, and Diane Schulte

Annual Report of Luther Memorial Church

Youth and Young Adult Ministries Report



Celebrations

- We have welcomed several youth into LMC over the past year and if we had each showed up on Sundays and Wednesday nights we would have **21 youth** from grades 7th-12th grade represented.
- We had ten youth attend the 2017 Synod-wide Lock-in
- We have started a Youth Planning Team that works in conjunction with Family Planning Team to work towards a cohesive future for our programs that is sustainable and healthy. We are currently working towards writing a Mission Statement and Values that we can build off of for future planning.
- This past July we brought seven 6th-8th grade youth to the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center for a week of Confirmation Camp
- We are gearing up to take ten High School youth to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX this summer with 35,000 other ELCA youth
- We are working with the Church Council to create a position for youth on the Church Council to provide a platform for their voice and wisdom to be heard

Needs

- Several volunteers for the 2018-2019 program year to work with the Youth Group as it grows in the coming year

Hopes

- To bring the youth into engagement with other cultures
- To encourage intergenerational relationships
- To create a self-sustaining young adult program
- To engage the youth within the life of the congregation in service and in voice
- Looking for options for the annual Confirmation Camp to rightly invest in our youth

Team Members

- **Youth Group Volunteer:** Dave Goss
- **Youth Planning Team:** Emily Haite, Jeff Shank, Dave Goss
- **2018 Youth Gathering Adult Leader:** Emily Haite
- **Confirmation Adult Leader:** Nichole Martinez

Dates:

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering - June 27th-July 1st 2018

Confirmation Camp - July 2018