

2018

Fun at the Annual Hayride



National Youth Gathering



King David at Bible Story Trick or Treat

Annual Report



4 year olds receive their bible milestone

Sandbakkel making



Bandage Rolling

LIVING Waters LUTHERAN CHURCH



Kids Fighting Hunger



John the Baptist at Splash

LWLC MISSION STATEMENT
As followers of Jesus, we seek to reach, teach, and care for God's world as a welcoming and inclusive community.

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Annual Meeting Agenda

Sunday, February 3, 2019

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Agenda Review

Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

President's remarks and Introduction of Council – Mark Weis

Bill Markfort – VP and Youth Rep

Bryn Muehlbauer – Secretary and Congregational Life

Emily Zempel – Inreach and Personnel

Kurt Zimmerman – Property

Curt Gullickson – Outreach

Steve Anderson – Finance

Alicia Mages – Education

Stephanie Foster – Worship and Music

Mikayla Zaske – Youth Rep (Non-Voting at Council)

Nick Tapio – Treasurer (Non-Voting at Council)

Pastors' Comments – Pastor Todd, Pastor Denise, Intern Sarah

Constitution Update – Mark Weis

Presentation of 2019 proposed budget for congregational approval – Anderson & Weis

Council candidate's presentation for election. (3 for 3 years)

Election of Conference Gathering Delegates (Mar 3 at 2 pm at Peace Lutheran Church, Cold Spring)

Election of Synod Assembly Delegates (June 7 & 8 Redwood Falls MN)

Announcements and Closing

Adjournment

Closing Prayer

2018 LWLC Annual Meeting Minutes

Call to Order – Haley Entner (11:58 am)

Opening Prayer – Pastor Denise

Agenda Review – No additions or comments, a quorum of members was present

Approval of 2017 Minutes – Blair Schrader, Will Towner. **MSP**

Pastor's Comments – Word of thanks to those in leadership, those who serve on teams.

Thanks to Haley as outgoing council president, outgoing council members. Many thanks to Brian Ulrich, outgoing treasurer (five plus year term!)

Introduction of team liaisons – Haley Entner

Synod and Constitution Update – Mark Weis

Synod is us!

SW Minnesota synod is centered in Redwood Falls, MN

Bishop John Anderson

240 congregations, 10 conferences

Discussed mission partners, synod leadership and synod budget considerations

Synod Assembly points

Grow Disciples, deepen vitality in mission and ministry

Read the bible

Talk about giving, time, and talents

Embrace Grace!

Church is changing, stand and walk together

Engage young people

Proposal to Amend Constitution

Adding a youth voting member spurred discussion

Current constitution – governs church life, non-profit corporate life and rules/
policies

Model constitution – is a three-piece document including church language (ELCA),
state bylaws, and continuing resolutions (LWLC)

Recommended to update every 3 years

Will need a larger group to take on this task, study and work with the synod

Current council recommends adding vote for youth member and Treasurer. This moves from 9 total votes to 11.

Proposed 2018 Budget – Todd Muehlbauer

Emphasis on our blessings as a congregation – recognized efforts of staff, volunteer hours and efforts, and council member’s leadership

In 2017, approved a budget with about \$7000 deficit in general fund. By year’s end, there was about \$2600 budget surplus. This is about \$9900 positive difference.

Mortgage fund ended the year at \$3000 over budget.

2018 budget highlights

Mortgage fund refinance 2015, anticipate 7-year payoff

Stewardship drive

119 pledges for general fund - \$11000 increase in pledged giving

86 pledges for mortgage fund – on budget

\$4700 deficit budget presented

This is about \$1500 increase from 2017 actual expenditures

\$13500 budgeted for fundraising – this is decreased

Includes \$2200 increase in pay and compensation per personnel team recommendations

Includes \$1200 increase in mission support

Includes \$4000 decrease in expenditures as compared to 2017 actual

Comments/discussion

Mara Jahnke discussed “passthrough” of expenditures and revenues that offset; requested clarification of mission support (includes disaster relief, ELCA, fellowship, and local support); requested clarification of miscellaneous income items

Dee Carlson discussed that coverage during upcoming sabbatical is already budgeted

Call for motion – Stephanie Foster, Carolyn Neubauer– **MSP**

Election of New Council Members

Bryn Muehlbauer, Emily Zempel, Kurt Zimmerman, Curt Gullickson, Alicia Mages and Mikayla Zaska presented.

Nick Tapio – treasurer.

Motion for unanimous vote on all members as presented – Theresa Szymanski, Terry Sylvester– **MSP**.

Synod Assembly Delegates

Blair Schrader, Curt Gullickson, and Laura Lee Gullickson presented as Synod Assembly delegates.

Call for motion – Mark Weis, Tim Carlson– **MSP**

Synod Conference Delegates

Stephanie Foster, Carolyn Neubauer, and Brian Ulrich presented as Synod Conference delegates, in addition to the three Synod Assembly Delegates.

Call for motion – Will Towner, Kris Mattson– **MSP**.

Motion to adjourn (12:59 pm) – Theresa Szymanski, Chris Rasmussen– **MSP**.

Closing Prayer – Pastor Todd.

Minutes prepared and submitted for approval by Aaron Sufka.

MSP signifies Motion, Second, Passed.

Congregational Membership Report

Baptized membership at the end of 2015		1128
Baptized membership at the end of 2016		1154
Baptized membership at the end of 2017		1141
Baptized membership at the end of 2018		1149
MEMBERS RECEIVED IN 2018		
A. By Baptism: children 15 years and younger)	22	
B. By Baptism: adults (16 years and older)	0	
C. By transfer	44	
TOTAL MEMBERS RECEIVED IN 2018		+66
MEMBERS REMOVED IN 2018		
A. By death	7	
B. By transfer (which includes moving out of the area)	49	
C. By Statistical Adjustment*	2	
		-58
BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP AT THE END OF 2018		1149
Number of households on 1/1/2017	361	
Number of households on 1/1/2018	371	
Number of households on 1/1/2019	386	

Presidents Message 2018

The Holy Spirit is present here! Good people of Living Waters Lutheran, I am humbled to report on the ways the Holy Spirit has worked this past year, through you. You continue to be incredibly generous and caring Ministers to and for other congregation members, the community and to the world around us. A recent Sunday sermon reminded us to see the joy around us. Jesus invites us to participate in the joy. Be in community. We won't fix all that is presented before us each day, but as a community of believers, with the help of the Holy Spirit, members of LWLC, YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Thank you all for making that difference.

This year presented some challenges for LWLC. We had some health issues arise that had an impact to our Pastoral staff. Additionally, health issues arose for some representatives on and to the Council. I can report that the prayers all of you have offered up, have had tremendous healing effect. We are a reasonably healthy lot again. Thank you LWLC for thoughts, prayers and ways you stepped up to support some of us who were ailing for a bit.

LWLC also navigated its first summer with both of our called pastors away from our midst for most of the summer. We grew as a congregation from that experience. We miss the pastors when they are not in our midst, but I believe that the Holy Spirit showed us that LWLC is a vital community of the Body of Christ. As a church community we can navigate and survive as a mission, relying on each other, doing God's work – The work our pastors teach us about doing, in the form of reach, teach and care. The Holy Spirit guided LWLC and provided pastoral, congregational and mission support this past summer. This is the sign of LWLC becoming a mature, thriving and vibrant congregation at a very high level. And yes, pastors, we are glad you are back in our midst.

And for the blessings realized this past year, and beyond.....

Pastors and Staff, Thank You for all you do for the congregation of LWLC. You shepherd, guide and care for LWLC much more than most folks realize! Each of you is an embodiment of the Holy Spirit working in our midst. You are the core caretakers of the LWLC congregation, and its needs. Additionally, you continue to encourage us each week, to look to the world beyond our building doors, and Reach – Teach – Care for the folks beyond our four walls.

LWLC is hosting another internship. Welcome Intern Pastor Sarah Larson. We have a growing history of hosting pastoral internships at LWLC. This is one of the most significant things, among many, that our faith community can do to live out the mission of TEACH. Thank You, Sarah for the gifts you bring to LWLC.



A core group of LWLC folks has embarked upon a journey of “Cultivating Generous Congregations”. This is an initiative sponsored by the SWMN Synod of the ELCA and involves some training and coaching for congregations to become more generous with giving. LWLC is one of the handful of congregations in the synod participating this year. More information will become available about this initiative as the year goes on. The main emphasis is that a congregation can see the benefit of increased giving of gifts, offerings, time, if the “story of what the congregational community is up to” is told and made known as much as possible. People simply connect better with an organization and are more likely to support same, if they know that the organization supports them or the causes they feel strong about. We plan to let folks know about what LWLC is up to and

the many things we are involved in. And yes, we are going to ask for resources to support the LWLC mission. Additionally, we are working with the Synod, to develop an endowment plan, and have in place the ability to accept funds/gifts to an LWLC endowment soon. Both initiatives are sponsored by the Synod, and costs associated have been covered.

Each year, the Church Council, Pastors, and esteemed guests (Treasurer, Youth Rep.) participate in a Council Retreat. The past couple of retreats, the council focused on getting to know each other, and working on a few goals for the coming year. Pastor Todd is usually the retreat leader. Good energy comes from these retreats, and the council has moved to make some of the goals realized during my time on council.

This past year, we tried something new. We enlisted the service of former SRR Schools Superintendent Greg Vandal to lead the retreat. We participated in an exercise called a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) as it relates to LWLC as an organization. As a result of the SWOT exercise, and a Growth/Barriers brainstorm session, a dataset was created for ranking by the Council/LWLC leaders. A set of opportunity outcomes was developed from a scoring system applied to all the data. By rank, these are the top Five "Action - Outcome Goals" that LWLC leaders/Council sees as needing attention and are attainable in the coming years.

#1 Congregational Engagement - Make it easier for people to become connected into LWLC. Make it easier to ask questions, get folks answers. Create more small groups. An emphasis of people connecting with people was a top goal.

#2 Better Focus - Make commitments to things that we have resources as a congregation to successfully support. This may mean doing fewer activities/things, but in the end, we will have a stronger focus on things we take on as an organization.

#3 Finance - Tell our story. Clearly connect mission and goals to giving. Focus on expanding our resources and giving to the mission of LWLC, by communicating what we are doing with the gifts. Tell folks where the money is going!! Let folks know where needs are!!

#4 Youth - Youth are a key to the future of LWLC. Focus on youth development and education plans. Find ways for youth to play a bigger role in the workings of LWLC. Setting up of a Youth Room or area in our LWLC campus. Commit to pursuing a Youth Minister position so youth activities are strengthened.

#5 Volunteerism - Tell people about opportunities available. Tell our story. Work on connecting and getting volunteers connected to an opportunity at LWLC. Work toward getting an active Volunteer Coordinator at LWLC, so we can coordinate duties, recruit new volunteers and communicate the need for volunteers.

Nothing on this list should be a surprise. These goals were by far the highest five by numeric score on our goals list.

The topic of giving and finance is always a topic that is of interest but is difficult for congregations to talk openly about. In 2019, I believe you will begin to observe, and hopefully participate in more open and frank conversations about money as a congregation. I am pleased to report that our budget for 2018 was met with generous giving. Thank you for supporting LWLC in this way. Without the funds provided by generous giving, LWLC could not exist.

Going forward, it is important for the congregation, and the leaders of the congregation to realize the following about financial support of this congregation. We exist as a congregation to Reach, Teach and Care - leaders need to communicate concisely the budget required to support the Mission for the coming year(s). As leaders, we need to do a better job of communicating the things LWLC does to Reach, Teach and Care (Narrative Budget). As leaders, we need to encourage the congregation to engage in fruitful conversations about giving of financial resources to the mission of LWLC. As leaders, we have identified that

LWLC has a capacity to support at an increased level of giving, and we as leaders need to work on ways to get the congregation to support at a greater giving level, (one third provide much support, one third fill the rest of the gap and one third do not give). As leaders, we have begun the journey to strengthen the ability to support our mission, by engaging in activities to boost our financial support. That means many conversations and telling the story of LWLC.

In closing some thanks are in order. Patti, Thank You! You are one of the main core pieces of LWLC that needs to be recognized for all you do for LWLC! Thank you to the many team volunteers, you are vital components of LWLC. Thank you to the congregation for financial, time, and talent support you give to make this mission go. Finally, thank you to the council. You allowed me to see on a very personal level how the Holy Spirit is working at LWLC. I am humbled to have served with you.

Gods Peace to you all,

Mark Weis

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD; HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.

Psalm 118:29

Typically, in my annual report, I list those things that stand out in my mind...highlights over the course of this last year within our community of faith. But I must confess, as I look back to 2018, my mind turns sharply inward. Not that getting cancer is in anyway a highlight of my year, but it certainly stands out as something that shaped my experience, including my work at Living Waters. It was strange for me to be on the receiving end of care and concern. I felt completely carried by your prayers, your cards and your get well wishes. And as so many have shared with me in the past, I, too, must echo that it is truly a gift to be a part of this faithful family. Needless to say, as I reflect on 2018 and the community of Living Waters, my first thought is gratitude. You have cared and given me space and patience through my treatments and recovery. Thank you! I am happy to say that my chemo treatments are done, my scans are clear and for whatever the future will bring, I know I am held.

My other inward standout for 2018 was the gift of being able to take a 3 month summer sabbatical. Again, thank you. The sabbatical was planned well before the cancer was discovered, but the timing of my sabbath rest and renewal was well timed with treatments and recuperation. And in spite of being tethered to an every other week infusion, I was still able to do some reading, some writing, some composing and some traveling, including a trip to Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center high in the Cascade Mountains of Washington. It was a great sabbatical, and as I returned to my regular routine in September, I returned refreshed and renewed.

As has been the case for my 8 years at Living Waters, I remain so very thankful to be working along side such a fun-loving, caring and hard-working staff. Many thanks to Patti who went the extra mile this summer in my absence! I have also appreciated the passion and dedication of our church council members, members of teams as well as so many invaluable volunteers. It's been a great addition having Sarah on board for a 2 year internship. Welcome, also, to Steve Minkler who steps in as our part time pianist and thank you to Janet Anderson for her time as our fulltime accompanist.

It is evident to me that Living Waters will continue to be a vibrant community of faith with a strong sense of mission. I have no doubt that we will continue to grow and be what God envisioned some 23 years ago. From our Food Shelf to Christmas Eve in a Barn to God's Work, Our Hands, Living Waters makes a difference in the greater community. And from weekly worship to Wednesday servant nights to Theology at the Movies, Living Waters makes a difference in the lives of its members and friends. Behind, within and around all that difference made is God's Spirit, moving and transforming lives.

As I look to this new year, I am hopeful we will continue to expand our sense of stewardship and support for Living Waters. Hats off to the team of members who have been participating in Cultivating Generous Congregations. I am also hopeful that we will be able to provide more opportunities for people to deepen their faith and hear God's voice in their lives. Hats off to the 40+ people who have committed to reading the Bible in a year's time! Stay tuned for other opportunities to grow faith including a trip to Holden Village in August for anyone interested. Finally, I am hopeful that we can deepen our collective sense of God's guidance and care for this church. There are times I think it becomes tempting to worry that our viability is up to us. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you another year.

Shine on.

Todd Mattson



HOLDEN VILLAGE



Annual Report 2018
Pastor Denise Hanson

“The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness, the darkness couldn’t put it out.” (John 1:5)

As I write this report, it is the season of Advent – the season of longing and hopefulness.

I have been hoping and longing these past several years...

...for a deepening of our life together as God’s people here in this church and community through the practice of discernment. Rather than trying to do too many things, and getting spread too thin, discernment involves developing a practice of listening to God for what God is specifically and uniquely calling us to do, and then doing only that.

...for a youth and family minister who could take us to the next level with our youth and families. This is our congregation’s demographic, and we need someone who is trained, equipped, and passionate in this area.

.....for a deepening of our individual faith lives not only by serving on teams or gaining more knowledge about God, but also by experiencing God through the ancient practices of solitude, silence, the examen, lectio divina, and other spiritual practices that have for centuries fed God’s people at a level beyond cognition. These practices are the bedrock of the spiritual life. And I am grateful to our small band of people who have committed to a 2-year process of learning and practicing these things individually and together!

I am excited to have just about completed a 27-month Transforming Community experience for pastors and leaders in the church. This has changed me from the inside out, and profoundly affected what I believe it means to live as God’s people in the world.

I am excited to have started a 2-year “Tending the Holy” program through Christos, a program that trains people to be spiritual directors. I am passionate about this ministry because my own spiritual director has made such a huge impact on my life for the past 2 years.

I’m incredibly grateful for our staff and for the people of Living Waters! Thank you for another year of shining the Light of Christ into the dark places of our own hearts, our community and world!

Together in Christ, we are the light of the world!

Intern Pastor Report

Submitted by: Sarah Larson

Wow, what a difference a few months can make. I came to Living Waters in September, fairly clueless about this congregation and a bit overwhelmed by the newness of it all. It took a little while to get my footing, and I'm still clueless in many aspects of ministry (and life, really), but I have come to understand why God brought me to this church. You are a very welcoming and gracious congregation, filled with hardworking individuals and people who are willing to step up when it really matters. It's pretty obvious that this congregation is a place where people come as strangers and grow as friends.

I've learned so much from Pastor Todd and Pastor Denise so far...particularly that ministry is all about stepping out of our comfort zones. In the time I've been with you, I've had the opportunity to lead a couple of Table Talks, teach 6th graders on Wednesday Trek nights, attend council and some committee meetings, attend my first ever Lutefisk Supper, participate in Advent vespers services, preach and help lead worship, and plan a Blue Christmas service (my internship project). I'm so thankful to Todd and Denise, as well as the rest of the staff, my intern team, and all of you, for the encouragement and support that has been given me. I've learned and grown a lot in this short time, but definitely still have a ways to go before I'll be ready to leave the nest. I appreciate your support and patience!



Living Waters Lutheran

Statement of Financial Position For All Funds as of 12/31/2018

Assets

Bank

Checking - Building Fund	34,379.19
Checking - General Fund	26,540.98
Checking - Mortgage Fund	25,965.06
Checking - New Wine Fund	7,978.10
Checking - Restricted Fund	27,332.90
Checking - Savings Fund	17,441.53
Checking - Womens Fund	2,471.78
Checking - Youth Fund	7,646.67
Petty Cash	150.00

Total Bank 149,906.21

Fixed Assets

Buildings	1,213,075.65
Equipment	61,462.73
Land	251,408.65
Land Improvements	36,367.32
Accumulated Depreciation	
Buildings	-462,857.00
Equipment	-55,141.00
Land Improvements	-36,368.00

Total Accumulated Depreciation -554,366.00

Total Fixed Assets 1,007,948.35

Total Assets 1,157,854.56

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	354.31
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Total Current Liabilities 354.31

Other Current Liabilities

Payroll Withholding & Taxes	
403(B) optional Pension	230.00
Federal Withholding Tax Payable	297.35
FICA Tax Withholding-Employee	282.43
FSA Healthcare	-98.07
Medicare Tax Withholding-Employee	57.90
Pretax Retirement Pay	-16.66
State Withholding Tax Payable	674.99
Supplemental Term Life Insurance	66.00

Total Payroll Withholding & Taxes 1,493.94

Current Portion of Long Term Debt	67,965.25
Deferred Revenue	13,079.96

Living Waters Lutheran

Statement of Financial Position For All Funds as of 12/31/2018

Total Other Current Liabilities	82,539.15
Long Term Liabilities	
Mortgage Payable	489,940.35
Current Portion of Long Term Debt	-67,965.25

Total Long Term Liabilities	421,975.10
Total Liabilities	504,868.56
	=====
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	
Building Fund	34,372.87
General Fund	24,458.63
Mortgage Fund	524,086.90
New Wine Fund	11,049.29
Savings Fund	17,441.53
Womens Fund	2,646.70
Youth Fund	11,284.79

Total Unrestricted	625,340.71
Restricted	
Restricted Fund	27,645.29

Total Restricted	27,645.29
Total Net Assets	652,986.00
	=====
Total Liabilities + Net Assets	1,157,854.56
	=====

BUDGET History and 2019 Recommendation

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017	2018	2018	2019	
Item	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Recommended	Budget
Revenues:										
Offering General	\$224,837	\$232,118	\$237,238	\$246,492	\$251,945	\$261,842	\$263,355	\$265,167	\$269,016	(1.5% increase)
Offering Special Env	\$1,356	\$1,015	\$100	\$1,922	\$1,500	\$290	\$1,500	\$60	\$100	
Offering Other	\$4,173	\$847	\$1,862	\$2,400	\$500	\$7,420	\$500	\$1,421	\$2,000	
Fees	\$11,089	\$13,259	\$12,964	\$13,864	\$13,000	\$11,202	\$13,000	\$13,962	\$13,300	
Fundraising	\$20,868	\$21,405	\$20,106	\$23,570	\$23,000	\$18,571	\$18,500	\$18,726	\$16,000	
Rent	\$31,394	\$34,095	\$38,984	\$38,788	\$38,000	\$39,407	\$38,000	\$38,557	\$39,500	
Miscellaneous	\$1,891	\$2,814	\$1,911	\$3,360	\$1,500	\$8,832	\$1,500	\$4,138	\$4,500	
Thrivent Choice	\$1,736	\$2,325	\$3,113	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$2,591	\$3,500	\$5,453	\$3,500	
Youth Programs	\$542		\$15			\$1,650		\$773	\$600	
Intern Support								\$3,200	\$4,400	(\$3125 already collected)
IRS Health Ins Tax Credit	\$8,877	\$3,266								
Total Revenues	\$306,762	\$311,143	\$316,293	\$333,396	\$332,945	\$351,805	\$339,855	\$351,457	\$352,916	(.04% increase)
Expenditures:										
Administrative	\$28,218	\$29,786	\$32,114	\$29,618	\$30,950	\$29,376	\$31,450	\$26,862	\$29,000.00	
Comp & Benefits	\$186,527	\$190,613	\$202,220	\$215,328	\$239,361	\$234,865	\$241,563	\$243,918	\$246,398.00	
Conference & Assemblies					\$1,500	\$1,781	\$1,500	\$1,630	\$1,500.00	
Congregational Life Team					\$350	\$115	\$350	\$279	\$300.00	
Education	\$18,270	\$17,937	\$18,812	\$15,463	\$15,500	\$13,468	\$15,500	\$14,926	\$15,000.00	
Fundraising	\$5,975	\$4,529	\$4,757	\$4,488	\$3,000	\$4,670	\$5,000	\$2,658	\$2,000.00	
Gifts			\$14	\$330	\$160	\$150	\$160	\$196	\$200.00	
Inreach Team	\$286	\$246	\$195	\$200	\$250	\$37	\$250	\$186	\$200.00	
Mission Support	\$23,882	\$20,815	\$15,794	\$13,306	\$8,200	\$18,374	\$9,400	\$13,008	\$11,400.00	
Outreach Team	\$936			\$100	\$100		\$100	\$29	\$100.00	
Misc	\$300	\$2,600	\$518	\$5,621	\$500	\$17	\$500	\$189		
Parish Nurse Ministry Pro	\$28			\$228	\$200	\$151	\$200	\$179	\$250.00	
Pass Through	\$1,183	\$769	\$1,769	\$1,425	\$700	\$6,152	\$700	\$2,216	\$2,000.00	
Payroll Taxes	\$3,158	\$3,253	\$3,155	\$3,497	\$3,497	\$4,128	\$4,678	\$4,687	\$5,000.00	
Property	\$29,078	\$30,474	\$32,088	\$27,709	\$27,270	\$26,636	\$25,900	\$28,956	\$31,600.00	
Worship	\$3,863	\$5,081	\$4,566	\$4,729	\$4,750	\$4,868	\$4,750	\$4,650	\$5,368.00	
Worship & Music Team			\$7	\$100	\$100		\$100	\$0	\$100.00	
Youth Team	\$1,272	\$4,290	\$284	\$4,760	\$2,500	\$3,499	\$2,500	\$3,165	\$2,500.00	
Total Expenditures	\$302,977	\$310,394	\$316,293	\$326,902	\$338,888	\$348,287	\$344,601	\$347,734	\$352,916.00	(1.5% increase)
	\$3,784	\$749	\$0	\$6,494	-\$5,943	\$3,518	-\$4,746	\$3,723	\$0.00	
Fundraising vs Mission Support										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018				
Fundraising Net	\$14,893	\$16,876	\$15,349	\$19,082	\$13,901	\$16,068				
Mission Payouts:										
ELCA Synod	\$15,738	\$13,855	\$6,000	\$4,262	\$3,351	\$2,600				
Local Mission	\$6,745	\$6,297	\$6,799	\$6,799	\$7,250	\$7,345				
Fellowship	\$1,011	\$563	\$1,047	\$627	\$1,248	\$1,545				
**Other	\$388	\$100	\$1,948	\$1,618	\$2,938	\$1,518				
Total	-\$8,989	-\$3,939	-\$445	\$5,776	-\$886	\$3,060				
**Includes: World Hunger, Disaster Relief, Special Lenten Giving, Outreach										

Congregational Life- 2018

“As followers of Jesus, we seek to reach, teach, and care for God’s world as a welcoming and inclusive community” is the LWLC mission statement. The Congregational Life team strives to help accomplish the above mission statement by “fostering friendships and relationships in the church”.

I like to think of our church as part of my extended family. People who will rejoice with me in my joys and comfort me in my sorrows. I truly believe that these types of relationships cannot be formed by just attending Sunday morning services. These contacts are made through small groups, bible studies, mission projects, and service. Congregational Life helps to cement these friendships through fun events and activities.

Our team hosted a free movie afternoon featuring “The Incredibles” In May. Popcorn and snacks were available for purchase. Unfortunately, we had to compete with Mother Nature who offered one of the first beautiful spring days of the year, but we were grateful for that gift too!

The next event that was offered was a Twin’s game on July 31st for Lutheran day at the stadium. Thirteen people attended the game against the Cleveland Indians. We may need to recruit a few more people and pray a little more next year so that we can cheer the Twins on to a victory!



Of course, the Pederson farm fall hayride is a much loved event here at LWLC. It was a beautiful warm fall day filled with a hayride, animals, yard games, bonfire, chili, and being Lutherans of course there was a potluck! What a perfect environment to learn something new about someone you already knew

and for meeting someone new too! Pumpkins were for sale to raise money for Phil Pederson Scholarship fund. It is on days like these that it is so easy to see God’s beautiful work in our world. Thank you to the Pederson family for sharing your beautiful farm with our congregation.

Sauk Rapids Rice Community Education brought the Looney Lutherans to town for a show in October so we decided to promote this event to our congregation too. This fun trio’s show discussed the Lutheran “food wheel” where all roads lead to hotdish, sang songs, and hosted everybody’s favorite game show, POTLUCK.



December is the time for LWLC's community inspiring event, the Living Nativity. Many people pulled together to set up/take down, organize, promote, dress characters, be characters, and bring animals. I am always in awe that we are able to accomplish these tasks. My heart is filled with joy when I see the little kids come and watch the characters and animals and see the wonder in their eyes. What a wonderful way to spread the good news of Jesus' birth and that He is the reason for Christmas. I would encourage anyone who want to experience the true meaning of Christmas with their family to participate in this event next year. Thank you to all who helped with this important event.

Thank you Living Waters members for this opportunity to serve on the church council and this team. I have met and worked with many new people whom I would not have gotten to know otherwise. Thank you to the Pastors and staff and the council members for your hard work to make our church such a wonderful congregation.

My challenge to everyone is to see how they can grow in 2019 by joining a small group, volunteering for a committee, attending a new event, or striking up a conversation with someone new. My wish for everyone is that they feel connected to this church family and therefore are better able to reach, teach, and care.

Joy to you,

Bryn Muehlbauer



**Living Waters Lutheran Church
Youth & Family Ministry Report
2018 Year in Review**

Submitted by Alicia Mages, Education Team Liaison & Pastor Denise Hanson

Youth Education Team:

Goal: To organize, run and do visioning for the various Youth Education ministries of Living Waters.

The following is a bulleted list and narrative of programming and events offered through Living Waters Youth Education Ministries during 2018.

For VBS this year, we returned to the original format that we used for many years until it felt like we needed to give our volunteers a break. We had about 65 kids participate. A big thank you to Alicia Mages for taking this on!

We continue to offer milestone classes at each age level, followed by students receiving their "milestone" in worship. Milestone Ministries is a way to encourage kids and parents to learn about the faith together, and to recognize significant milestones in their faith journey.

There is a Rally Day carnival and also an indoor carnival in January. These involve games and prizes for kids, and are always great community builders. A big thanks to Kirsten Stiegel for putting these together!

Camels and kings in the children's Christmas program.



Bible Story Trick or Treat was another fun event this year. Older kids dress up as Bible story characters, and hand out treats to the younger kids as they walk through the Bible trick or treating.

A big thanks to Heidi Martinson and Daren Protolipac for leading music this year!

We continue to do "Midweek Makeover" nights, which are intergenerational meals and service nights for families. We also have "Home Huddles" as a major part of our confirmation ministry. At home huddles, students meet in small groups in people's homes for pizza and Bible study. We also continue to have one retreat each year, per grade. Mentors are also a part of our confirmation ministry.

We continue to use ROAR (Respect, Optimism, Acceptance and Responsibility) as a positive behavior system on Wednesday nights. We also continue to put students in small groups instead of larger learning environments, which has really helped students learn better and teachers have a better experience teaching as well.

We continue to use Peer Ministry Leadership for our 7th and 8th graders. This involves a very interactive, real-life situation curriculum in which students learn to apply their faith to their daily lives at school, with friends, etc. Two high school students,-- Morgan Weinand and Mikayla Zaske-- have led small groups in this ministry this year.

For the 2017-2018 school year:

The Pond – an education ministry for 2-3 year olds and their parents. Average attendance is about 5 kids plus their parent(s).

Splash (Sunday School for PreK through 3rd graders)– has about 35 kids in attendance. Breakfast Club averages about seven 3rd graders.

First communion class is offered each spring for 2nd graders and their parents, which is followed by First Communion. 19 students took the class this year.

18 bibles were given to 4 year olds to be used throughout their Splash years.

Waterworks has 49 students in attendance this year. It is held every Wednesday evening for 4th – 6th graders.

Lifewalkers (Confirmation for 7th and 8th graders) has 42 students, and is held every Wednesday evening.

Discipleship 101 (Confirmation for 9th graders) has 21 students.

21 10th graders were confirmed in October.

The Education Team is also very grateful for the Phil Pederson Memorial Fund, which is used as a scholarship fund for kids going to Luther Crest Bible Camp.



Kids helping with the Fall Fest garage sale.



Characters from the children's Christmas program.

Inreach/Personnel teams

In support of our mission, the In-Reach and Personnel Teams focus on caring for the Living Waters community. Many hands make this happen through the Parish Nurse, Service Teams, Hospitality, Care Core, Shepherding, Teddy Bear Ministry, and the Parade of Lights. In addition to the service of all of these groups, 15 new households were welcomed in 2018 as members of Living Waters and connected with New Member Hosts. Another venture to encourage fellowship was expanding the coffee bar between church services. Many thanks to all of the individuals and families that are helping ensure all are welcome and feel connected with the church.

The Personnel Team is very grateful for the church staff and the incredible amount of work they do. As part of our appreciation, the Personnel Team is recommending the final step of the 3-year journey toward

bringing our pastors up to the synod guidelines for salaries. We strongly feel the work done by all of the Living Waters staff needs to be appreciated and fairly rewarded. 2018 had some staff changes and there will be more in the year to come. With the departure of our wedding coordinator and a change in the music director position, some hours were redistributed amongst the staff to help cover some of the needs. We are in the process of hiring 2 part-time piano accompanists to compliment our choir

director. A paid Nursery position starts January 2019. There is still a dream of a youth worker position to enhance youth ministries. While this is on hold, we are grateful for the additional help with the youth from our new intern pastor.

In the year to come, please join us in appreciating everyone who works to make Living Waters the vibrant community that it is. Please greet new and familiar faces as we all play an important role in caring for those around us. If we can support you in any way or if you have ideas for how we can better live out our mission, please reach out so we can connect you with one of our many ministries.

God's Peace,

Emily Zempel



2018 PARADE OF LIGHTS

Outreach Ministry Report – 2018

“Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.” – Psalm 31:16

OUTREACH, in the modern ELCA Lutheran Church, is dependent upon the prayerful, mission-based, generosity of its Christ-centered members. Congregations are encouraged to focus their attention and resources on ways to serve their communities while cultivating what it is that makes them unique, sustainable and socially relevant. To be sure, the church must care for its members to maintain a viable community presence and inspire spiritual growth, but it must also look beyond its walls to provide welcoming opportunities for the unchurched and meaningful opportunities for those who want to make a difference in the world around them.

During 2018, as in past years, our members and staff participated in a wide variety of activities that have enriched the lives of others, to include: LWLC food shelf, Habitat for



People who participated in God's Work—Our Hands.

Humanity, home delivered meals (through Centracare) and God's Work – Our Hands (road clean-up, serving a meal at the Place of Hope, assembling and packaging meals for youth and rolling bandages for Tanzania), the Teddy Bear Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Vacation Bible School, Youth Service projects and the Christmas Stocking project, and more.

NEW WINE is an on-going blessing that has been shared with youth from numerous churches in the greater St. Cloud area. Our building is host to a Montessori School and has been made available to programs such as AA/NA for meetings and special events. People come from far and wide to enjoy Christmas In The Barn services every December 24th, and yes, even come to

eat Lutefisk (a huge success every year). Fall Fest draws a crowd each year with food, games, a Fun Run, music, crafts and an auction/garage sale enjoyed by all. Lenten services in the Spring offer a time for mid-week spiritual reflection and a light (soup) supper.

It should be noted that not everyone enjoys picking up garbage along the roadside or knitting prayer shawls. Maybe you can't play a musical instrument or simply don't want to. That's okay! You can see from the list of activities in this report that there is ROOM FOR EVERYONE, regardless of age or abilities. Please consider picking one or more activities that suit your time and talents and join in the fun.

For those of you who have served the Outreach Mission in one way or another during 2018 – THANK YOU!! I mentioned earlier how we have enriched the lives of others through our out-reach ministries. I would be less than honest and remiss in my duties if I failed to mention how enriched WE have become by those we have served. There is a special sense of pride, accomplishment, humility and gratitude felt when people come together to share themselves with others. It is a feeling that, quite frankly, has no equal!

Thank you for your participation and generosity!

Submitted by Curt Gullickson, LWLC Outreach Liaison



2018 Property Team Report

The Property Team here at LWLC is in charge of maintaining all of the church grounds and facilities including the main church building complex, the driveway and parking areas, the Well House, tree and fence lines, and surrounding grounds.

Most of the work here at the church, to keep it looking beautiful is done by a VERY dedicated group of volunteers who donate their time and talents. If the work requires someone outside of the team to get completed, the Property Team will coordinate the job to be completed by a professional.

With all the regular lawn mowing, tree trimming, fence line trimming, snow removal, clean up, etc. the Property Team in 2018 had a few major improvements done with the help of professionals:

- The north parking area was redone
- Fixed the leaking roof
- Cleaned carpets in some areas
- Installed a new dishwasher in front kitchen
- Replaced clutch drive on lawn mower

The Property Team will be upgrading our lighting system in the church. We will be replacing the bulbs with a new LED system which will be a cost savings in the future. This should be completed in the first part of 2019. The team is also planning for future repairs that will be needed such as a new roof and replacing the carpet in the LLC and Sanctuary.

I would like to say Thank You to everyone on the Property Team for all of your hard work and dedication, I appreciate it very much and I am proud to be a part of such a great team. God's peace to all.

Submitted by Kurt Zimmerman

Worship and Music team

Hello, my church family! My three-year commitment to church council is coming to a close and I am so grateful for the experience. Music and worship are the heart of the church and Living Waters has been blessed with so many members willing to share their time and talents and energy.

Our choir has added members and continues to perform twice a month. Hoo-ray for our choral director, Janet Anderson. You know that wonderful men's quartet that sings on the fourth Sunday? Well, they are a total gift. Thank you to Curt Gullickson, Eric Falk, Dennis Larson, and Wayne Anderson for freely sharing your voices with us. Thank you to all of our worship team singers!

Our services work because of volunteers. Thank you to those who stepped up to greet, usher, read scripture, run PowerPoint, and serve communion. Terry Sylvester coordinates the altar team whose members faithfully set up the wine and bread for the forgiveness of communion. Many thanks to all of you.

The second annual Deck the Halls was a success. Decorating fans arrived to put up trees, hang lights and wreaths and swoops and transform our sanctuary for the season.

In the past 10 years I have been most moved by our mid week services both during Lent and Advent. Looking back on Advent 2018 and remembering the candle lit sanctuary, the meditative messages, the offering of healing prayers, I am so grateful and blessed to be here at Living Waters with all of you.

Stephanie Foster