



# SHARING THE GRACE OF CHRIST

**LIVING WATERS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2016 Annual Report**

**Annual Meeting  
Sunday, January 22, 2017 at 12:00 noon**

**A Congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

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# **ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

**JANUARY 22, 2017 12:00 noon**

## **CALL TO ORDER: President, Thomas Hall**

- *Quorum established (20% of voting members=30 people): Per our constitution (C8.02): Voting members are confirmed members. Such members shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year. (C10.04): 20% or 100 voting members (whichever is the lesser number) shall constitute a quorum.*
- Approval of Agenda

## **OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Dustin Lenz**

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**ADJOURNMENT & CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Dustin Lenz**

# MISSION STATEMENT / CORE BELIEFS / VISION STATEMENTS

## Mission Statement: *"Sharing the Grace of Christ"*

**How We Live Out Our Mission Statement:** By connecting to and being part of the communities we serve through Worship (traditional and contemporary), Outreach Ministries, Spiritual Development, Christian Education for all ages, Vacation Bible School, and Servant Trips.

### Working toward our Mission:

Together we will grow...

Faithfully in Christ

As a community of Christ

In Service to Christ

### We will grow with our *Core Beliefs* in mind:

- **Worshipping is the primary role of the people of God:** Weekly community worship that is Trinitarian, contextual, liturgical, and sacramental [Communion & Baptism-infant/adult] and frequent personal expressions "Jesus said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment." - Matthew 22:37-38
- **Fellowship opportunities deepen our relationships:** Includes small and large groups and personal faith developing relationships "And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" - Matthew 22:39
- **Discipleship matures in prayer, Bible study (inspired word of God) and generosity :** Includes prayer, Lutheran theology, and tithing "Teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:20
- **Serving others by equipping people for ministry:** Includes various Spiritual Gifts and leadership development "The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." - Ephesians 4:11-13
- **Outreach beyond Living Waters that clearly communicates the grace of Christ:** Includes social ministries; local and global mission projects and a verbal witness "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." - Matthew 28:19

## Our VISION STATEMENTS:

- **Worship:** We welcome a community of believers every week to a dynamic and vibrant Lutheran worship experience that proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ through liturgy, word and sacrament, engaging music and Christ centered preaching.
- **Outreach/Service to Community:** We are a people who know we are called by Christ to reach out to the community by inviting people to worship, sharing our faith with others and serving the needs of the local community (both physical and spiritual) and through global mission.
- **Discipleship:** We are a people who understand our Lutheran-Christian identity and can explain it to those around us. We provide spiritual growth opportunities to enable people to follow Christ's call to be disciples to all nations. We are an active church which is developing a stronger network of care to show God's love welcomes the community.
- **Children, Youth and Family:** We are a community of faith that welcomes all people to build a relationship with Christ. We seek to support our youth in developing their spiritual gifts and stewardship through education, opportunities and feedback. We do this through educational opportunities and other events throughout the year to actively engage our youth in discussion and debate over Christ's teachings and love.

## Pastor Lenz's Report

Recently a woman was sharing her experience of being a mid-wife and the life lessons she had learned during that time. One of the three learnings she had was on the topic of facing life challenges. She noticed that during the birthing process women who shied away from the pain took a lot longer for the baby to be born. However once the expectant mother allowed themselves to go through the pain the muscles relaxed and the child was born. Our congregation came to mind as we have faced several challenges over the past year, but we relaxed a bit, surveyed what is going on and taken on the challenges that came our way. Because of our work together we have emerged stronger as a community of faith because of them.

Starting out the year we saw a significant shortfall in our budget. As our finance team was just starting to notice this trend we also received another challenge, the resignation of Missy our office manager. We relaxed a bit and prayed about this and saw that God was birthing something new in us. Since that time we have had a team of competent people from the congregation step up and use the gifts they have to makes sure the administrative tasks of the congregation are taken care of in a timely manner (Thank you Lisa Emberton, Kermit Swanson and Chris Zyburt). Because of the generosity of their time, which is just as valuable as finances, our office ministry is stronger than ever and our finances are becoming stronger each week. Thanks be to God for your generosity and sharing of time.

Other areas of ministry have become stronger as well. In 2016 Tom Brannam, our director of music, passed the proverbial torch to Evan Swanson who was raised in this church on a steady diet of musical mentors who shaped his talent and vocation for life. Evan returns to Living Waters after graduating with a bachelor of music in Jazz studies so he brings his experience growing up here, a knowledge of the abilities of others and his fresh knowledge of the academic music world to help lead our music ministry to a position of greater strength than ever before.

With the staff transitions we have started to hit our stride and focus on other areas of our life together. In February of last year we met as a congregation for a leadership summit for the purpose of strategic planning. This helped us as a congregation start to shape and define who we are, what is important to us and where we are going. Out of this we started to see that while our mission is *Sharing the Grace of Christ*, our goal as a congregation is to grow, and we are beginning to define ourselves by how *Together we will grow, faithfully in Christ, as a community of Christ and in service to Christ*. When we determine to create a project or take

on an idea we are to ask the simple question will this activity help us grow in one of these areas?

This past year we have been working at growing in faith through sermon series focused on faith practices, something we will be intentional about in 2017. We have grown from two worship services to three because of our steady growth in attendance and new people coming to be a part of Living Waters. In our community we have tried a myriad of different activities which include, the Easter Egg Hunt, movie nights and Tricks and Treats. We have grown in our service to Christ through adding another God's Work Our Hands day in the spring as well as becoming more intentional about finding opportunities to serve. To get the word out we re-created our website and launched it this past August. The website is the place you will find the most up-to-date, need-to-know information. It contains our church calendar, newsletter and of course a way to give to Living Waters.

As we look to 2017 there is a lot of promise for where we are going as God is birthing new things through us. While some have voiced fearful concerns about our congregation, which are always valid concerns, we are not in a place we need to be fearful. God is growing Living Waters in ways we cannot yet see or determine. As God's church we are called to be faithful to what God is calling us to be in this place and in this time. In 2016 one of our greatest successes was Vacation Bible School where we welcomed more children into our church than in recent memory. The participation at VBS signals an opportunity for a more intentional children's ministry at Living Waters. As we move through 2017 we will be working to intentionally take on this opportunity.

Looking even further down the road you may have noticed a new line item in regards to a staffing position. In order to grow our ministry at Living Waters we will need to look forward and bring in someone for programmatic ministry around our ministry with children. Secondly our leadership might determine that the next steps need to be in helping to further the mission of the church and developing leaders for the church at large by having an intern who would be with us for a time as we learned from each other.

I look forward to what God is going to do through Living Waters in 2017. There will be challenges and pain at times. By being faithful to God and allowing us to experience the pain associated with this, God will birth something new and exciting through us. As God's church we are called to be faithful to God in the midst of these challenges.

God's Peace,

Pastor Dustin Lenz

# Pastoral Acts 2016

## Baptisms,

- Monroe Nelson

## Confirmations

- Sydney Blake
- Brynn Conway
- Mackenzie Green
- Ethan Nehls
- Mesha Roberts
- Acacia Steenberg

## New Members

- Lorainne Marquiss
- Jackie McDaniels

## Weddings

- Ernie and Heather Kemnetz
- Tom and Doreen Eischen

## Funerals

- Bill Palomaki

# DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & WORSHIP REPORT

Submitted by: Evan Swanson

2016 was a year of change for both the music ministry at Living Waters and for myself. When I started, I received lots of suggestions from church members and ministry team leaders, many of which I address in my 2016 activities. As I tended to the routine needs of the church, I also attended workshops to further my knowledge of worship music and my skills in leading. These workshops gave me lots of ideas to reinvigorate our music. Looking outside of our congregation, I used my connections as a professional musician to enhance our music. With all of these methods in mind, I tried to make sure there weren't more than 6 weeks or so between exciting events at Living Waters.

## **2016 Activity:**

- Improved repertoire variety at all services
- More frequent use of special music for unique sermons (August sermon series on faith and struggle)
- Vocal leadership at the 8:00 service (Alberto)
- Continuous work with the band to improve our music making
- Reestablished Living Waters' participation in local parades
- Significant involvement with VBS in August
- Attended various seminars to further knowledge of church music
- 2 concerts (Rare Export in Oct and Peter Mayer in Dec)
- Furthered understanding of SongShow (embedding videos/powerpoints directly into SSP rather than dragging the internet browser over)
- Established a team of soundboard volunteers
- Christmas Day Carol based service featuring a brass quintet

As I look forward to 2017, I am excited about where we are and where we can go. Living Waters has a ton of energy and I am eager to find ways to channel that energy into enriching musical experiences both on Sunday mornings and otherwise. I have set goals for myself (next page) that will allow me to focus more energy on long term planning and big picture ideas. With these goals and Living Waters' undying energy, 2017 can really be something special.

**2017 Goals:**

- Plan further in advance
- Better connect with the community of church musicians
- Youth band
- More concert events like Rare Export and Peter Mayer
- Volunteer leadership in the Tech department
- More opportunities for fellowship in the Tech and Music departments
- More new band members
- More congregational involvement with music (choir, etc.)
- More artistic experiences and variety within our weekly worship experience

## Council President's Report

Submitted by: Thomas Hall, 2016 Council President

Looking back on 2016, I still can't believe the Cubs won the World Series! Equally impressive, yet more importantly, is all the effort put forth this year to make Living Waters run as smooth as possible.

First I would like to thank my fellow council members for their support over the past year. I would especially like to thank outgoing council members Michelle Reis, Diane Grasse, and John Stone for their insight and commitment to serving over the past two years. I value the relationships we built and the experience we shared.

Thank you to Lisa Emberton, Chris Zyburt, and Kermit Swanson for taking ownership in the Church and volunteering their time to cover office responsibilities. To our new Music Director, Evan Swanson, fantastic job with the Music Ministry. Keep up the good work! I've never had so many songs from church running through my head at random times.

With the support of the congregation, our Ministry Teams have come together and used their time and talents to provide a fiscally responsible church with a welcoming environment for all people, where relationships with Christ and others can be cultivated by the Grace of God.

A few things that stood out to me in 2016 were:

- Our congregation's growth in numbers, prompting the addition of a third service. This has opened the worship space for new families to come and experience Living Waters. It has also allowed others to participate in service roles and responsibilities.
- Rare Export's jazz benefit to bring the Peter Mayer concert back to Living Waters.
- Tricks and Treats was again a success. I received a number of compliments from our Cub Scout Pack 194 Leaders.
- The Community Garden returned to flourish on our grounds. It was so nice to see a different way the Food Pantry can benefit from the work of our congregation.
- Vacation Bible School was in a league of its own, wonderfully decorated and well attended.

- We experienced new forms of reflection during Lent through art. Personally, the art series helped me through a difficult time in my life and I am very grateful for that.
- The congregation indeed, gave in gratitude in response to part two of the First We Give of Ourselves program.

All of this would not be possible without the collaborative work of our Ministry Teams. Many hands make light the work. At times the hands are not as many as is needed and the work is not light. I am very thankful for all that team members have accomplished in 2016. With the continued support of the congregation I look forward to seeing where new Ministry Team members will share their time and talents in 2017.

# 2016 Annual Meeting Proposed Minutes January 24, 2016 9:15 AM

**Called to Order:** 9:22am

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Dustin Lenz

**Secretary Report:** Rob Frenz

- Comment: Opening Remarks Section: Capitalize “God”

**Motion to accept the 2015 Annual Minutes: Approved**

**Move to accept the agenda for the 2016 annual meeting: Passed:**

**2015 Financial Report: Todd Soderwall**

- **Motion to approve 2015 Financial Report: Approved**

**2016 Proposed Budget:**

- Can we budget for sealing the driveway in 2016 to protect our investment
- Motion to approve the 2016 Budget as written: Approved

**Council President:** Terri Brent

**Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Dustin Lenz

**Strategic Plan Task Force:** John Conway:

- Sharing the Grace of Christ at Living Waters Lutheran Church survey
- Leadership Summit March 12th

New Business:

**Motion to accept the new council members: Approved**

**Motion to accept the nominating committee; audit committee and synod assembly reps: Approved**

**Motion to accept the ministry team reports: Approved**

Financial Team with terms (maximum 3 year) to be included on Nominating Committee Report for the annual meeting.

- Auditor should not be part of the finance committee

Continuing Resolution:

**Deferring issue to council to for 2016: Approved**

Council should create a continuing resolution to add the financial committee to the by laws to be voted on at the next annual meeting

**Motion to adjourn at 10:17am: Approved.**

## 2016 STATISTICAL REPORT

<b>Membership Statistics</b>	<b>Baptized Members</b>	<b>Confirmed Members</b>
January 1, 1997	214	
January 1, 1998	220	150
January 1, 1999	247	169
January 1, 2000	274	182
January 1 2001	340	224
January 1, 2002	334	231
January 1, 2003	326	225
January 1, 2004	309	211
January 1, 2005	335	223
January 1, 2006	402	264
January 1. 2007	438	285
January 1, 2008	448	286
January 1, 2009	512	318
January 1, 2010	528	324
January 1, 2011	513	313
January 1, 2012	435	290
January 1, 2013	441	300
January 1, 2014	443	308
January 1, 2015	370	268
January 1, 2016	397	278
January 1, 2017	392	277

<b>Year</b>	<b>Regular Offering</b>	<b>Average Attendance</b>
1996	\$105,865.00	112
1997	\$124,221.00	118
1998	\$114,049.68	126
1999	\$144,664.46	141
2000	\$139,013.54	149
2001	\$146,393.01	144
2002	\$131,859.25	142
2003	\$255,068.09	134
2004	\$175,439.27	153
2005	\$190,986.00	208
2006	\$204,920.70	202
2007	\$211,004.10	204
2008	\$213,434.17	215
2009	\$205,901.05	208
2010	\$191,107.07	168
2011	\$192,284.98	164
2012	\$182,578.03	146
2013	\$168,230.00	141
2014	\$154,000.00	113
2015	\$156,855.00	123
2016	\$171,281	132

**132 Average Sunday Worship Attendance:** Calculated based on the average number of people who were counted by ushers during Sunday morning worship.

**392 Baptized Members:** Per our constitution-C8.02a. Baptized members are those person who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.

**277 Confirmed Members:** Per our constitution-C8.02b. Confirmed members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.

**149 Voting Members:** Per our constitution-C8.02c. Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year.

## **2016 LIVING WATERS COUNCIL MEMBERS**

President/Liaison to Property: Tom Hall  
Vice President/Liaison to Worship: John Ronge  
Secretary: Debbie Dirks  
Treasurer/Liaison to Finance: John Stone  
Liaison to Education: Courtney Gotsch  
Liaison to Outreach: Dianne Grasse  
Liaison to Fellowship: Michelle Reis  
Strategic Planning: John Conway

### **2017 Returning Council Members**

John Ronge  
John Conway  
Debbie Dirks  
Courtney Gotsch

### **Nominated for 2017 Ballot**

Tom Hall (to be re-elected)

## MEMORIAL FUND

The Living Waters Lutheran Church Memorial Fund was created by the Church council in 2005. Each Memorial Fund is for a specific need of the church. Items purchased from these funds may be purchased with the approval of the Executive Committee, who are managing the approved list.

There were no contributions nor expenditures for the memorial funds in 2016. See *Dedicated Accounts* for current balances.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

- The General Fund Income for 2016 was \$176,469 and expenses were \$174,688, There was a surplus in the amount of \$1,781.
- Our Mortgage balance as of 01/03/17 is \$447,130.13. This is down \$39,251.21.
- The Mortgage Fund (Demand Account) balance as of 01/03/17 is \$19,693.92 compared to \$15,737 as of 12/31/2015. An additional mortgage payment of \$5,027 was made on 12/30/16 to bring down the principal balance.

### **The following items were on record as Gifts-in-Kind:**

Stewardship Materials	Egg Hunt Candy/Eggs	Sunday school supplies
VBS Materials	Sunday School Supplies	Confirmation Cake

## 2016 MISSION SUPPORT

<b>2016 Mission Support</b>	\$4,620.00 \$853.55 \$474.00 \$621.87	Northern Illinois Synod Pennies for Peru World Hunger Appeal Water Project
<b>Community Support</b>	\$183.51 \$94.00	Food Resource Local Food Pantries
<b>Miscellaneous Support</b>	\$965.31 \$700.00	Pastor's Discretionary Account LOVE Offerings
<b>Youth Support</b>	\$485.87 \$810.50	Manna Gift Cards Tom's Hanging Plants

## MORTGAGE FUND

Mortgage Loan as of 01-05-2016	\$486,381.34
Mortgage Fund balance as of 01/01/2016	\$15,737.00

### INCOME

Fund Offerings	\$66,888.00
Mortgage Fund Interest Earned	\$78.97

### EXPENSE

Principal Paid on Mortgage Loan in 2016	\$42,901.32
Interest Paid on Mortgage Loan in 2016	\$22,997.68

### BALANCE

Mortgage Loan as of 01/03/2017	\$452,157.13
Mortgage Fund balance as of 01/06/2017	\$19,693.92

## 2016 DEDICATED FUNDS REPORT

	<b>Description</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
1	Nursery Attendant	\$0	\$500.00
2	Youth Spending Account	\$2,205.00	\$2,230.50
3	Office-2540 Copier Payoff	\$3,773.00	\$-427.00
4	Memorial Fund-General	\$40.00	\$40.00
5	Memorial Fund-Bible	\$22.36	\$22.36
6	Memorial Fund-Piano	\$72.70	\$72.70
7	IT	\$240.81	\$340.81
8	Fellowship Events	\$254.09	\$132.85
9	Flowers	\$524.13	\$634.13
10	Garden of Flowers	\$0	\$37.50
11	Key Deposit	\$20.00	\$20.00
12	Guest Musician	\$0	\$253.80
13	Food Resource Bank	\$0	\$183.51
14	Crop Walk	\$0	\$20.00
15	VBS	\$2,425.32	\$4,244.96
16	Women's Retreat	\$628.23	\$5,286.84
17	Youth Ministry	\$5,943.66	\$4,916.02
18	Food Pantry	\$0	\$53.00
19	Property	\$2,493.68	\$5,031.68
20	Education-Faith Formation Fees	\$0	\$25.00

21	Education-Sunday School	\$2.99	\$390.35
22	Pastor Discretionary	\$1,910.80	\$1,105.49
23	Men's Ministry	\$364.61	\$461.61
24	Background Checks	\$213.16	\$157.16
	TOTAL	\$21,134.54	\$25,733.27

**DEDICATED FUNDS:**

The dedicated funds are separate accounts set up to track funding to a specific function or mission. Most of these accounts are like "holding pens" (and necessary accounting tool) for money until it is disbursed to the appropriate place. For instance, if the church collects money for a specific charity, the money is held in a Dedicated Account (specific to that charity) until such a time as the check is written and given to that charity.

These funds are separate from the General Fund and the Mortgage Fund.

# **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Submitted by: John Stone (Council Treasurer)

**2016 Members:** Greg Nikolich, Chris Schenkenfelder, Todd Soderwall, Dustin Lenz (Pastor)

## **Accomplishments for 2016:**

- Monitored the General, Dedicated and Mortgage Fund accounts.
- Approved checks for various payments on a weekly basis.
- Reviewed church property insurance premium.
- Consulted with church leaders regarding budgets and dedicated funds.
- Decided which accounts to assign unlabeled income.
- Communicated financial updates to the congregation.
- Prepared the 2017 proposed budget.

## **Objectives for 2017:**

- Monitor income and expenses
- Approve checks for a various payments on a weekly basis
- Review church property insurance premiums
- Prepare the 2018 proposed budget

# MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

## EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

Submitted by: Trish Nikolich (chair), Courtney Gotsch (council liaison)

**Team Members:** \*Special Thanks to Trish Nikolich, Karen Schenkenfelder, Jenny Conway and Pastor Dustin for providing this information!\*\*

**Team Mission:** “We seek to provide Biblically based educational opportunities for all ages to build, encourage and nurture the continuing faith development of our congregation”.

### Highlights for 2016 Year in Review:

- Our Sunday School follows a 3 year lectionary curriculum called Spark and we are in the 4th year of that program. We have seen great growth this year. Currently we have 28 students registered and a very large preschool of 8 students. Each year we have a pageant and the theme of 2016 was "Happy Birthday Jesus." Lee Williams and Annette Robbins directed it.
- This year we went on a Deep Sea Discovery for VBS to learn that God is with us wherever we go. We had 61 VBS students. The program was run from 9:00 to noon, during the first week in August, with onsite help of 20 TGIF (Teens Growing In Faith) volunteers and 23 onsite adult volunteers. In the afternoon 14 TGIF participated in the afternoon activities that nurtured our teens faith and service and developed leadership and team building skills. There was a need to support 10 of our participants through scholarships that we were able to provide. During the week participants made donations toward the Lutheran World Relief School Kit mission project (coordinated and supported by Outreach and Thrivent) and created 55 complete school kits. The participants also donated toward the Lutheran World Relief Water Project throughout the week raising \$512. The congregation donations boosted the total amount raised to \$600 accomplishing the financial goal to purchase Well Construction Materials or a Family Water System. Thanks be to God for our incredible congregation for all of the support through prayers, donations and volunteering before, during and after Vacation Bible School.
- Submerge (Confirmation, grades 7 & 8)—Confirmation remains a strong ministry at Living Waters fluctuating between 12 and 16 youth participating in the opportunity to explore questions of faith. Each week youth come with their questions and are asked new ones so they can explore their faith in a safe environment. To help create this we

use a curriculum published by Spark House Publishing, an offshoot of Augsburg, called Re:Form. We have also made a shift in our summer programming with the youth and are sending youth to Confirmation camp at Lutherdale. A recent study on the effectiveness of camp showed that those who had a camp experience are three times more likely to stay active in the church later on in their lives than those who do not.

A special thanks to Nick Alex, Jenny Conway, John Conway and Heidi Ellis for their help assisting with the classes over the past year. And a welcome to those who have affirmed their faith this year in the service of Affirmation of Baptism; Sydney Blake, Bryn Conway, Mackenzie Green, Ethan Nehls, Mesha Roberts, Acacia Steenberg and Faith Stone.

- High School Youth Servant Trip—This past summer four youth headed to Copper Hill, TN for a servant trip. We stayed at Whitewater Express and were led by Team Effort who organizes trips of this nature across the US. We worked on two different homes, painting them and working on a deck. The most important thing we did was built relationships with the homeowners who because of the summer long work by our group and others reconnected with their faith which is what our trip was about, bringing people closer to God. A special thanks to Terri Brent who was a chaperone on the trip and to Brynn Conway, Acacia Steenberg, Kailee Stone and Faith Stone for making it a great trip.
- We also have other opportunities for learning and spiritual growth. We have Thursday morning Bible study, our Jonah group, and a book club.
- Adult Forum is an opportunity for Bible study and discussion of faith-related matters, open to all. It takes place in Room 2 during the 9:15 education hour on the Sundays between Labor Day and Memorial Day. Karen Schenkenfelder reads up on various topics and leads the conversation. The friendly, smart, funny, and kind people who bring their diverse perspectives are what make it an enjoyable and spiritually enriching part of the week.

We'd like to expand our ministry by creating a staffed nursery, and creating a program for elementary aged students that would meet monthly or biweekly and encourage fellowship. These programs are in the planning stages and we would love to get both input and volunteers.

## PROPERTY TEAM REPORT

Submitted by: Don Brown, Jay Wiese, Joe LaMonica, and Tom Hall (council liaison)

**2016 Team Members:** Don Brown (co-chair), Jay Wiese (co-chair), Joe Tupy, Joe LaMonica, Mark Naumowicz, Dave Emberton, Kermit Swanson, Bob Morgan, John Ronge, Ryan Williams, Gary Saltsider, and many others who stepped up when needed.

**Team Mission:** To maintain a warm and welcoming environment for people for everyone at Living Waters.

### **Accomplishments for 2016:**

- We had over 30 volunteers who stepped up when needed to move chairs and tables to set up and tear down for various functions of the worship space.
- We fertilized the areas around the building. We removed more scrub brush and continued cleanup of the wooded area. Trees were trimmed to allow easier
- mowing of the grassy areas. We removed a tree that fell on a neighbor's property. We still need to remove several others that could fall into neighbors yards.
- We provided lighting and hay wagon rides in support of the halloween event.
- We worked with Vacation Bible school.
- We helped put in 4 individual gardens and fencing to keep out rabbits.
- We had a spring cleanup that focused on cleaning both interior and exterior.
- We replaced one more defective furnace heat exchanger.
- The property team serviced the 3 mowers and Ford tractor that we are buying from C. Miller.
- The Property Team continues to work with McHenry County Court System by hosting and supervising individuals who are required to provide community service hours.
- We worked with five different community service people in 2016.

### **Plans for 2017:**

- Continue replenishment of the Property Emergency Fund to handle non-scheduled events such as frozen water pipes, furnace failures, and similar.
- Improve communication with property team members and council to keep everyone informed on upcoming activities and issues.
- Continue to build the volunteer base with additional members.
- Develop teams committed to maintain the four different flower beds.

*The Property Ministry Team thanks God for all of our team members who generously donated their time and talents to maintain and beautify our building and grounds.*

*Special thanks go to Joe LaMonica and Joe Tupy who did the bulk of the mowing this year and Co-chair, Jay Wiese, who continued his focus on the building interior.*

## FELLOWSHIP TEAM REPORT

**2016 Team Members:** Michelle Reis (Council Liaison & 2017 Chairperson), seeking a Co-Chair

- Terri Brent & Anne Tanner, Co-Chairpersons until October
- Women's Retreat: MaryAnn Dahlke & Heidi Naumowicz
- Care Ministry: Erin Hall
- Angel Tree Gifts: Becky Marshall
- Scrapbooking: Lynn Swanson
- Seasoned Saints: Bette Tupy
- OTHER: Jackie Yancey, Diane Grasse, Karlene Olesuk

**Team Mission:** "Through social opportunities we strive to cultivate relationships with others and Christ."

### **Accomplishments for 2016:**

- Wednesday night Lenten soup suppers
- Coordinate Sunday morning coffee fellowship schedule (continue to seek more volunteers)
- Provided cakes & coffee fellowship for all special events
- Maintained all kitchen supplies to support Sunday fellowship and special events
- Sweet Art Event - shared fellowship and sweets while painting plates
- Provided breakfast and coffee fellowship for Safeguarding All God's Children Training & Leadership Summit
- Scrapbooking 2 Fridays a month
- Seasoned Saints outings
- Women's Retreat - made and donated blankets to Turning Point, collected gas cards and personal care items for TLS Veteran's Services of McHenry County
- Care Ministry is up and running. Provided cards/care baskets/gift cards for 16 members this year. Our care can only be as good as our communication. So please contact Erin Hall on our website under Contact Us, or via e-mail at [care@livingwaterschurch.com](mailto:care@livingwaterschurch.com) in 2017. You can inform us of members in need and let us know what type of support we can provide. ie. card, hospital visit, home visit, care basket, meal/gift card to purchase a meal etc. So we can continue to improve this ministry

- Assisted Outreach with Easter Egg Hunt, Community Movie Nights & Tricks & Treats Community Bonfire events by supplying/serving food and drinks with Thrivent Action Team Dollars requested by members
- Held a VBS Celebration Picnic to foster fellowship between church members, that assisted with and attended and the community members that joined us for VBS
- Provided food, drink and fellowship for Rally Day & God's Work Our Hands
- Held a Jazz Music Themed fundraiser, featuring the group Rare Export, appetizers, drinks and a raffle, in a Jazz lounge setting, to help defray costs from the Peter Mayer Concert
- Organized and collected gifts for Salvation Army Angel Tree Program
- Decorated for Christmas
- Assisted Pastor Dustin by organizing and working with Lifetouch Photography to provide an updated member directory since it was last updated in 2006. This project took a lot of work and over 2 months to complete and changed our plans for a Thanksgiving or Christmas themed fun fellowship event into a New Year's Family Pizza, Dessert and Game Night on 1-27-17 at 7:00 pm
- Set up and staffed green room and merchandise sales for Peter Mayer On Wings of Angels Concert

**Goals for 2017:** To meet at the Leadership Summit in 2017 to pick the top 12-14 events our church already does well and make them spectacular events that our communities come to recognize us for. With a more narrowed focus, our goal is that each team can hone in on one area of each event and utilize our talents and people in the best ways possible to fulfill our individual team missions and ultimately our LWLC Mission Statement "Sharing the Grace of Christ"

## OUTREACH REPORT

Submitted by: Mary Ann Dahlke & Heidi Naumowicz (Co-Chairs)

**2016 Team Members:** Heidi Naumowicz (co-chair, Tricks n Treats), Mary Ann Dahlke (co-chair, Easter Egg Hunt, FMSC), Karen Schenkenfelder (Food Resource Bank/Harvest Sunday, Bread of the World), Chris Schenkenfelder (Crop Walk), Russ Ruzanski (LITH/Algonquin Food Pantry), Dorie Ruzanski (rotary club liaison), Diane Sundberg, Carolyn Wiese, Dave Forner, Doris Ronge, Sharon Zeilstra, Terri Brent, Becky Marshall (Salvation Army Giving Tree), Jean Wolden (Crystal Lake Food Pantry), Chris Zyburt (GWOH), Ginny Klopfenstein (Blood Drive), Diane Grasse (Council Liaison), Erin Hall (Kid's Hope)

**Team Mission:** We assist the congregation as a faithful vehicle of the Holy Spirit by witnessing the love of Jesus Christ, sharing His Word of grace, serving others, and welcoming all people

**Outreach Vision Statement:** We see a people who know they are called by Christ to reach out to the community by inviting people to worship, sharing our faith with others, serving the needs of the local community (both physical and spiritual), and through global missions

### Accomplishments for 2016:

- Feed My Starving Children – 4 Packing events held on 3/12 (31 volunteers and raised \$250 to ship meals), June 11<sup>th</sup> (17 volunteers), 8/4 in coordination with TGIF (22 volunteers) and 10/01 (12 volunteers). At one event we collected \$262.00 in donations which equals 1190 meals. While we were at FMSC we packed 152 boxes= 32,832 meals that will feed 90 children for a whole year (Mary Ann Dahlke- coordinator)
- Easter Egg Hunt for community 3/26. We hosted approximately 100 children and families, hid 4000+ eggs and had an Easter Basket Raffle which included two certificates for a free week of VBS & 1 basket for each age group. 25+ volunteers.
- Food Resource Bank Day 4/3 with Kelsey Day visiting from FRB to talk at both services.
- Bread of the World Sunday letter writing campaign 4/17, led by Karen Schenkenfelder.
- Blood Drive 4/24 (coordinator- Ginny Klopfenstein)
- Coordinated discussion on Hospitality and welcoming others in Adult Forum.
- Two “God’s Work. Our Hands” events were held this year. Spring event was 5/15 and the fall was held on 9/13. The Spring event focused on the church property and at Don Manke’s group home. Our fall event We had a very favorable response from the community. We primarily assisted 6 older adults with chores around their homes. Approximately 30 volunteers helped this day. (Chris Zyburt-coordinator)

- We updated our spirit wear, which debuted in the Crystal Lake 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.
- We began working with Kids Hope as mentors and prayer partners for Indian Prairie school 7 mentors & 7 prayer partners, 5 currently paired up at Indian Prairie, 2 awaiting matches. (Erin Hall- coordinator)
- Coordinated promotion to “Fill the Church” as we grew to hosting a third service. Worshippers were invited to “mug a friend,” post cards went out to area residents announcing the service, and we thanked new visitors by giving them gift bags with useful contents, including pocket prayer shawls and seeds thanks to the Hearts and Hands committee.
- Feed the World Weekend was 10/15 & 10/16 with FRB hosting Harvest Day and Crop Walk was held in Crystal Lake. Our liaison working with the Crystal Lake walk was Chris Schenkenfelder.
- Harvest Day- A contingent from our congregation brought pies to auction. All harvested products and good brought to the celebration were then donated to raise funds to support sustainable farming in partner countries. Flour was milled and prayed upon, then split up among partner congregations to then bake for use in communion. Karen Schenkenfelder was our liaison for this event.
- Tricks and Treats Community Outreach was held on 10/28. We hosted about 100 attendees (many from community) & had 20+ volunteers. (Heidi Naumowicz- coordinator)
- The Salvation Army Giving Tree operated in November and Early December. We had 90 items donated and raised \$1960. (Becky Marshall-coordinator)

## STEWARDSHIP TEAM REPORT

Submitted by: Kermit Swanson

**2016 Team Members:** Kermit Swanson (Chair), John Conway (Council Liaison), Audra Buckner, Sharon Zeilstra, Pastor Dustin Lenz

**Team Mission:** “As a faith community, we endeavor to use the gifts God has given to us to serve the needs of people both within and outside of our congregation.”

**Accomplishments for 2016:** In 2015, the Stewardship team, Pastor Dustin and the congregation council approved the launch of a 3 year stewardship program developed by the Northern Illinois Synod entitled, “First, We Give of Ourselves.” 2016 marked the second year of this program focused on the theme, “Giving in Gratitude.” The program was launched on October 9, 2016 and continued for 7 weeks culminating with our commitment Sunday on November 20, 2016. Over this period, through bible studies, sermon series, weekly email communications, home mailings and weekly “Family Money Talk” questions, we learned what it means to be “giving in gratitude” in response to all that God has given to us! We are grateful to the people of Living Waters and give thanks to God for the following response to our fall campaign (as of 12/24/2016):

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| a. Total 2017 pledges to the general fund – 51    | (43 for 2016)         |
| b. Total general fund pledged income - \$ 121,108 | (\$ 100,337 for 2016) |
| c. Total 2017 pledges to the Mortgage fund – 45   | (42 for 2016)         |
| d. Total mortgage fund pledged income - \$ 58,266 | (\$ 58,034 for 2016)  |

**Plans for 2017:** We will continue with the final year of the program, “First, We Give of Ourselves” with the third year focus – “Giving in Generosity!”

## WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

Submitted by Co-Chairs: Becky Marshall and Linda Kelly

Beginning in January 2016 at the Leadership Summit our congregation began to focus on what next steps Living waters would need to take to grow our congregation and reach out into the community to "Share the Grace of Christ". After meeting with a member of the Strategic Planning Committee, Pastor Lenz and our committee, we began focusing on several things.

### 1. Engaging more people to actively participate in worship:

- a. A display board was created and placed in the narthex describing each worship leader role.
- b. Sign- up sheets were printed and available for volunteers to fill out indicating what roles they may be interested in and which service they would like to sign up for.
- c. Worship Leaders Handbook was review, revised and reprinted and made available to anyone interested in volunteering.
- d. Worship Leader schedules were done quarterly allowing for any changes that may need to take place prior to any given Sunday.
- e. Evan and Becky also have developed and continue to work on a schedule for tech and sound volunteers.
- f. Developed a list of names and contact numbers for each Worship Leader volunteer so they can contact someone to trade with if they have a conflict on a day they are scheduled.

### 2. Meeting the unique needs at each service:

- a. As the church calendar changes the liturgy and on the occasion we change hymns and songs of praise, etc. we have been able to provide vocal help with learning the tunes for the first few time we sing them.
- b. With the addition on a third service we have been able to offer families times and services that meet their needs as well as enough room for everyone. There are also opportunities for the youth to be actively engaged in the worship experience (Praise band, tech, sound).
- c. Introduction of some new and unfamiliar song and music but with guidance to help us enjoy the richness of the experience.

### 3. Pastor Lenz had asked our committee to enhance our worship space and develop some themes reflecting the seasons of the church or a particular theme he might use in his sermon.

- a. Our endeavors began with this year's Stewardship Campaign "Giving in Gratitude". We used the theme of a tree/waterfall where people could clip on leaves /water drops with things written on them that they were grateful for.
- b. We continued this theme through Advent using the Blue and white theme and adding stars.

Moving forward into 2017 we will continue to work to enhance our worship space, encourage participation in worship as well as volunteering, support the Prayer Station effort and respond to the needs of our congregation. We will also celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

# TASK FORCE REPORTS

## AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by: Audra Buckner

**2016 Team Members:** Audra Buckner, Russ Struck, Letty Villalon

**2016 Review Conclusion :** Living Waters donations are accurately allocated to the designated funds, expenses paid are reasonable, and Shepherd Staff data system appears accurate and complete to reflect the deposits and balances according to the bank statements. We conclude that the information given to the Finance Committee via Shepherd Staff reports is accurate.

This year was a period of process review as volunteers replaced the paid position of Office Manager in the late spring. The financial side of this position was replaced with audit committee members and, thus, Russ and Letty volunteered for the 2016 audit committee. These changes complimented the annual audit process to have a fresh look at all aspects of the financial and database processes.

2016 Financial Audit - The following reviews have been completed:

### 1) **Monthly Bank Statements** (January – November)

- Verified funds allocated to Building Fund were accurately transferred into the Building Fund checking account.
- Reviewed monthly Shepherd Staff (SS) reconciliations for completeness.
- Traced Deposits from bank statement to SS system reports to ensure all deposits are accurately entered into SS.
- Reviewed Monthly Bank Statements for reasonable direct payments such as insurance, taxes, Simply Giving expense.
- Reviewed back up documentation for any non-direct payments to establish reasonable purchases.

### 2) **Deposits** (Generated a GL of all transactions dated 1/1/16-11/30/16)

- Selected 2-3 dates of deposits per month (Sunday Worship or Simply Giving) from the SS GL and traced every donation to its respective allocated fund by the giving party.

### 3) **Expenses**

- Reviewed 2016 expenses on GL for reasonableness and appropriate allocation, tracing a sample to support.
- Reviewed 2016 expenses by vendor to see reasonableness of payees.
- Reviewed the dedicated funds for reasonableness.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by: John Stone (Council Treasurer)

**2016 Team Members:** David Emberton, Doris Haugen, Karen Schenkenfelder, Dianne Grasse and John Stone (outgoing council)

**Team Mission:** “A nominating committee of six voting members of this congregation; two of whom shall be outgoing members of the Congregation Council; and four of whom shall be elected by the congregation at the annual meeting for a term of one year. Members of this Nominating Committee are not eligible for consecutive re-election. In selecting candidates for the various positions of responsibility in the congregation, the Nominating Committee shall seek fair and adequate representation for all members of the congregation.”

**The leadership handbook states:** “The committee shall seek candidates to fill the following vacancies.”

### 2016 OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Diane Grasse                      Michelle Reis                      John Stone

### 2017 NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS (pending vote):

Tom Hall (re-election)              TBD              TBD              TBD

**2017 NOMINATING COMMITTEE :** TBD                      TBD              TBD              TBD

**2017 EDUCATION TEAM LEADERS:** TBD

**2017 FELLOWSHIP TEAM LEADERS:** Michelle Reis and TBD

### 2017 VOTING MEMBERS TO THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD ASSEMBLY:

John Ronge, Heidi Naumowicz, Kacy Morris (attending)

**2017 AUDIT COMMITTEE:** Audra Buckner, Russ Struck (1 year left on 2 year term), Letty Villalon