

Annual Report to the Congregation

June 2017 – May 2018



Transforming lives through Grace...

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Loving & Serving the Lord of Our Life

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

5601 Washington Road

Kenosha, Wisconsin 53144

262-656-1995

office@lordoflifekenosha.org

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
June 24, 2018

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Mission Statement: Our mission is to transform lives through grace by being an accepting, serving, and caring community, empowered by the Holy Spirit to grow in faith.

Core Values:

- † Because of Jesus, we are an accepting and caring community
- † Serving those beyond our walls
- † An inviting place for children and youth
- † Valuing meaningful and inspiring worship

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda
June 24, 2018

- I. Call to Order Leslie Holloway, President
- II. Opening Prayer Pastor Stacy Seger
- III. Quorum Requirement – 69
- a. Total in attendance_____
 - b. Quorum met: yes / no
- IV. Approval of Agenda
- V. Approval of June 25, 2017 minutes
- VI. Council Election
- Outgoing Council members
 - Nominating Team Report
 - Vote
 - Appointment of Nominating Team for 2018-2019
- VII. New Business
- Vote to call Adam Moreno as Associate Pastor
 - Pastor’s & Ministry Leader Annual Reports
- VIII. Closing Prayer Pastor Stacy Seger

Annual Meeting of Lord of Life Lutheran Church, June 24, 2018 (for the year June 2017 – May 2018)

Annual Meeting Minutes, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, June 25, 2017

- I. Meeting Called to Order: 10:48 a.m.
 - a. Lou Molitor, Council President, presided over the meeting
 - b. Quorum:
 - i. Members needed for quorum: 67
 - ii. In attendance: 67
 - iii. Quorum met
- II. Pastor Stacy Seger led in prayer
- III. Approval of Meeting Agenda
 - b. Chris Daugherty motioned to approve the agenda
 - c. Sue Schmidt- Decker 2nd the motion
 - d. No discussion
 - e. All in favor/None opposed
 - f. Agenda approved
- IV. Approval of the June 26, 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes
 - a. John Meyer motioned to approve minutes from June 26, 2016
 - b. Jean Walrath 2nd the motion.
 - c. No discussion All in favor/None opposed
 - d. Minutes approved
- V. Pastors and Ministry Leader Annual Reports
 - a. Please take a moment to review the items that are in the packet you received today. The leaders worked hard to put together these reports.
- VI. Council Election
 - a. Outgoing Members: Anna Kersten, Norma Lundstrom, Lou Molitor, Dan Sinnen
 - b. Nominating team report by John Meyer
 - i. Nominated individuals are
 - a. David Houghton
 - b. Lou Molitor
 - c. Marie Persinger
 - d. Sue Schmidt-Decker
 - e. Rich Walasek
 - f. John Whyte
 - c. Vote
 - i. The four nominees receiving the most votes were:
 - a. David Houghton
 - b. Lou Molitor
 - c. John Whyte
 - d. Sue Schmidt-Decker
 - d. Appointment of Nominating Team for 2017-18

- i. Chris Daugherty
- ii. Bill Dorst
 - a. Tim VanBerg motioned to approve nominees
 - b. Jean Walrath 2nd the motion.
 - c. No discussion All in favor/None opposed.
 - d. Nominating team approved

VII. New Business

- a. Call Committee update by Pastor Stacy
 - i. Met with synod rep, updated ministry site profile which goes out to candidates.
- b. Ministry in Context
 - i. Hosting two students from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, both are Kenosha residents, second careers for both
 - a. Starting in the fall, they will be here to observe, participate
 - b. Second semester – each will have a project to implement
 - c. National Night Out on August 1, 2017 5:00-8:00PM here at Lord of Life and co-hosted by the Exchange Club of Kenosha

VIII. Discussion

- a. Peggy Zimmerman asked if there was a reason the annual meeting is held in June versus another month. It seems like we have problem getting quorum with summer.
 - i. Pastor Stacy said our by-laws state that the annual meeting is held in June
- b. Don Estes commented that we are looking for a property team leader
- c. Carla VanBerg brought up the need for an external audit. Cost is \$3500-\$7000
 - i. Looking for audit team of three non-council members.
 - ii. ELCA has audit booklet with guidelines
- d. Anita Cate brought up her concerns regarding gay marriage and abortion
 - i. Pastor Stacy responded that the ELCA welcomes everyone and every voice

IX. Closing Prayer – Pastor Stacy

X. Motion to Adjourn: Carla VanBerg

- a. 2nd Chris Daugherty
- b. Meeting adjourned 11:38am

Annual Reports to the Congregation:

June 2017 – May 2018

Pastor Stacy Seger

Perseverance: that was MY theme for the 2017 – 2018 mission and ministry year here at Lord of Life.

They say that “*nothing is permanent except change*” and I would say that we have seen that here this past year. Through the scariness and uncertainty of change, this congregation has responded with excitement and faith as we look toward the future! We have persevered!

The Apostle Paul writes in his letter to the Galatians (the 4th chapter) ⁹ *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.* ¹⁰ *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

My friends, it feels to me that Paul is speaking directly to our congregation for this time and place! Over this past year we have

- welcomed over 75 new members
- incorporated a new Sunday School curriculum that was well-received
- fed countless hungry
- helped to shelter the homeless
- taught our children
- confirmed our faith
- diligently worked through the call process to nominate a candidate for our new Associate Pastor position
- sent a sister off to seminary with a generous gift to offset her costs & prepare to send a 2nd
- baptized our newest members
- mourned our lost loved ones
- comforted one another through loss and trials and illness
- celebrated the goodness of God in countless ways

Through the plethora of change, we have not wearied of doing GOOD! YOU have worked to ensure that the mission and ministry of our congregation has continued despite added responsibilities and newness. We, as a congregation, have not given up in sharing the HOPE that we find in the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ! And I believe that God has cultivated and tended the soil of our good work in order for us to reap a bountiful harvest!

As a congregation that values children and youth being involved in every aspect of our life together, we are blessed to be adding an Associate Pastor who bring many years of experience and education to help us continue the work we’ve begun and move forward into a renewed future.

As an accepting and caring congregation, we have opened our doors wide and welcomed in many new members to join us in our mission and ministry.

As a congregation that is called to serve outside our walls, we are active in our community with various partners and ministries as well as sending folks to other communities to share the love of God.

As a congregation that values meaningful and inspiring worship, we have gathered together countless times to sing our praises, raise our laments and receive anew the promises of God through the sacraments of baptism and holy communion.

We are a blessed community; blessed by God’s provisions and blessed by the faith you have shown in your perseverance! Now is the time to celebrate friends! God has prepared for us a bountiful harvest of grace and love so that we might be strengthened to continue the work God

has called us to do. Our future awaits – God’s mercies are new every day (Lamentations 3) – I cannot wait to see the NEW day God has in store for us! May God’s favor continue to rest upon us as we faithfully share in God’s mission and ministry!

I am blessed to be your pastor!

In Peace & With Hope-

Pastor Stacy

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Annual Statistics for June 2017-May 2018,
compiled by Angie Wollschlager, Office Coordinator/Church Administrator

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS AS OF MAY 31, 2018

917 Baptized (everyone)
872 as of May 31, 2017

697 Confirmed (adults)
660 as of May 31, 2017

AVERAGE WEEKLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FROM JUNE 1, 2017-MAY 31, 2018: 310

(Includes special mid-week services, such as Lent Wednesdays)

From June 1, 2016-May 31, 2017: 294

WEDDINGS

July 15, 2017: Steve Hupcher & Jessica Stevenson, members

August 19, 2017: Joseph Scruggs & Kelly Gorman, non-members

October 7, 2017: Marty Knight & Karen Hansen, members

FUNERALS

June 05, 2017: Donald Richard "Ri" Hurlbut, III, infant son of Ashlie & Donald Hurlbut, members

June 29, 2017: James L. DeNio, Jr., non-member

July 7, 2017: Ione Kofoed, non-member

August 5, 2017: Barbara Schief, non-member (mother of Sonja Wolfe, member)

December 7, 2017: Tehya Lundstrom, member

December 27, 2017: Gary Lundskow, member

January 31, 2018: Chris Griffin, member

Autumn Rae Gittens, non-member funeral done by Pr. Cindy @ Piasecki Althaus FH

March 11, 2018 Kelley Hiser

April 28, 2018: Howard Farning, non-member

BAPTIZED

June 25, 2017: Abigail Cyzak, daughter of Katie & Michael Cyzak

July 16, 2017: Madeleine Meyer, daughter of Jeremiah Meyer & Denise Deardorf, non-members

July 30, 2017: Fisher Hurlbut, son of Ashlie & Donald Hurlbut, members

July 30, 2017: Donald Hurlbut, Jr., adult (Was mistakenly counted as baptized when they joined,

September 9, 2017 Matilda Grace Mulvey, daughter of Nick & Kylie Mulvey, non-members

October 8, 2017: Joshua Ryan Hiser, adult

October 8, 2017: Adilyn June Hiser, daughter of Kelley & Joshua Hiser

October 8, 2017: Jacob Michael Hiser, son of Kelley & Joshua Hiser

December 17, 2017 Brynlee Ann Lyjak, daughter of Kinsey Anderson, non-member

December 17, 2017 Bailey Kay Lyjak, daughter of Kinsey Anderson, non-member
February 18, 2018: Emerson Kay Retzlaff, daughter of Nathan & Melissa Retzlaff, members
March 18, 2018: Ashley Leicht
March 18, 2018: Gianna Romano
March 18, 2018: Morgan Leicht
April 7, 2018: Colton Schnuck, son of Renee & Ryan Schnuck, joining in May
May 5, 2018: Harper Jo Nighbor, daughter of Adam & Heather Nighbor, members

CONFIRMED October 30, 2016

Dominic Arturi	Megan Rodriguez	Mikenna Theisen
Isabelle Deinhammer	Joshua Schulz	Stephanie Thompson
Katie Lynch	Elliott Sens	Dillan Tiebout
Colin Mossman	Isaac Sens	Aidan Vogel
Sarah Remiker	Abby Swihart	Alyssa Vogel

MEMBERS RECEIVED - OTHER THAN BY BAPTISM

Oct 20, 2018

Kathryn & Trent Barnhart
Kay Leslie
Pam Leonard
Georgia Owens
Nathan & Melissa Retzlaff
Karen Hansen
David & Patty Rebey (assoc. members with St. Paul's)
Eric & Trish Steffen; Collin & Johanna
Bill & Rachel Taft; Jaclyn & Marilyn
Jamine & Moriah White; MaKaylla, Arael & Guillermo
Jurey & Connie Wittmus
Mike & Wendy Woods; Emily & Nicholas

December 18, 2017: Jim & Marcia Shaffer, transfer from St. Paul's LC

May 6, 2018

James & Deanna Hawlish (+3 kids yet to be baptized)
Judy Jankiewicz
Sara Jensen & Joshua Mayerak; Clara & Josephine
Chris & Jill Jeserig; Lauren, Parker & Wyatt
Joe Lanser
Dave Leicht
Jacqueline Liesch
Janet Meyer
Dave & Linda Sebetic
Ryan & Renee Schnuck; Maci

MEMBERS REMOVED

June 05, 2017: Donald Richard "Ri" Hurlbut, III, by death
July 17, 2017: Dan & Robin Evans, Lily, Emma - transfer to St. Mary's Lutheran Church
August 14, 2017: Kim Koepke, transfer to Other Lutheran Congregation
October 24, 2017: Kara & Trenton Baylor; Thea & Tova - transferred to ELCA cong. in Racine
December 7, 2017: Tehya Lundstrom, by death
December 27, 2017: Gary Lundskow, by death
January 31, 2018: Chris Griffin, by death
February 7, 2018: Tim & Patti Ginnow, Nicole & Kevin, by request
March 19, 2018: Jon & Pam Luellen; Connor, Abigail, & Julia - transfer to St. Mary's LC

President's Report

Leslie Holloway, Council President

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the council these last two years. It has been an honor and a blessing to do so. I am proud to be a member of Lord of Life Lutheran church! We are growing and vibrant, and you are all a part of that!

This past year we have seen our church moving in a positive direction in continued support of its mission and ministry, while introducing some new efforts. One of the new efforts is a commitment to churchwide fundraising. For 2018, we are working on two primary fundraising efforts - a golf outing and a spaghetti dinner. We hope you can all join us for these events where we can have fun with each other in fellowship as we raise funds for the church!

In further support of our goals, in May, the Call Committee recommended a candidate for the Associate Pastor position; you will be voting on that candidate in today's meeting. The council sincerely thanks the Call Committee for their long hours and prayerful consideration in this effort; this was not an easy task by any means!

After a few setbacks, we are again moving forward with our Church Administrator position. This has currently been filled by Angie Wollschlager. We look forward to working with Angie in this new capacity!

I would like to thank the 2017 – 2018 council members for all of their hard work this past year. As a team, we have worked hard to develop and approve a budget to guide us throughout the year, and to make decisions on behalf of the congregation. Please join me in thanking the following council members for their work: Sue Schmidt-Decker, Kathy Sadowski, Lou Molitor, Carla Van Berg, Rich Walasek, and John Whyte.

I am proud to have served on the council these past two years, with this last year as your Council President. While we have had times of struggle, I believe we are on the right path to see Lord of Life continue to flourish in the coming years. I would also like to thank Pastor Stacy, the wonderful staff, and all the Ministry Leaders for their leadership in these changing times. I would also like to recognize the many people who volunteer in numerous roles at Lord of Life – thank you for your time, your talents, and your commitment to Lord of Life! With all of our continued efforts, Lord of Life Lutheran Church will continue to Transform Lives Through Grace!

Blessings,
Leslie Holloway

Angie Wollschlager, Church Administrator

Having just begun the role of Church Administrator in May, I don't yet have much to report. It's hard to believe I've been the Office Coordinator for 8 years as of this September, and I'm so excited to take on more responsibilities overseeing the business aspect of Lord of Life in the Church Administrator position.

I want to thank our HR Team; Laura Craemer Rasch, Amanda Hanna and Jacob Dorst for their commitment to Lord of Life and their work in hiring our new Administrative Assistant, Connie Wittmus, who began on June 5th and will be present in the church office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, while I focus my time on this new role. The next project the HR Team will take on is hiring a Music Director to provide leadership for all of our music groups as well as direct the choir.

I also must thank Don Estes and our amazing Property Team for all of the behind-the-scenes work they do to keep our building and grounds functioning at its best capacity. Take a look at the list below of things they've done in the past year. Wow!

Don Estes, Property Team

This year has been very busy for the property team. We have completed several repair jobs throughout the year. Listed below are the jobs we have completed.

1. Repaired the water leak in the Youth Room. This had been leaking for more than a year. At first, the cost to repair the leak was going to be several thousand dollars; however, Fred Duprey and I came up with a plan and fixed the leak for \$120.
2. The round window at the east end of the church has been a problem from day one, with the sun shining in on the people sitting in the center of the church. This problem has been corrected. Cost was \$180.
3. A hand rail was added on the steps going up to the altar. No cost.
4. The steps in front of the altar have always been a visual problem when coming down. This problem was corrected by adding a small wooden strip to the edge of each step. No cost.
5. The chairs in the sanctuary have been a never-ending battle, keeping them repaired and aligned. The coupling connecting the chairs was a poor design and would not keep the chairs together. We replaced them with new eye hooks which will do a better job keeping them in line and together. Cost was \$85. We also check and repair all of the chairs about every two months.
6. Repaired several of the pieces of stone facing that had fallen off the front of the building.
7. Shampooed the carpets in the multi-purpose room, hallway and the youth room.
8. Built a stage in the parking lot for National Night Out.
9. Installed thirteen paper towel dispensers throughout the building.
10. Painted walls in the main hallway.
11. The windows in the offices leak cold air when the wind is out of the north. We are presently working with the installer and manufacturer to resolve this problem.
12. There were several small jobs completed such as patching holes in the parking lot, change filters in all furnaces, shoveling snow when needed, installed coat racks in the Kindergarten Sunday School room, and put additional shelving in a kitchen cabinet.
13. There are always daily things to attend to.

Property Manager: Don Estes

Property Team Members: Fred Duprey, Bill Chase, Rick Walentowski, Carol Gumbinger, and Kevin Mifflin.

Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Youth

We are so thankful for Molly Swihart and Jacob Weber for leading WeB on Sunday mornings with our middle schoolers this year. It is so exciting to have a room full of young adults learning about God's message in a very open and creative setting.

Last July, we had 9 youth and 3 adults from Ascension Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs, CO, join our group of over 30 youth and a lot of adults join us for a week of Kenosha Ministry, Mission Projects, Learning, and overall great fellowship. Some of the highlights for the week include, going on a nature walk guided by Steve Gifford, buying diapers, food and other items for the ELCA Outreach Center and The Shalom Center, performing mission work at two homes for Habitat for Humanity, yard work for the ELCA Outreach Center, organizing the shelves at The Shalom Center, and packaging food for "Feed My Starving Children". We also had great events at Carthage College and evening meals and fellowship at George and Terry Sorenson's Farm and the Kenosha lakefront. Unlike other mission trips, this one was shared and received participation from the entire LOL Family. All of this would not have been possible with the generous support of this congregation with our various fundraisers, Youth Stock, M & Ms, Bake Sales, Team Trivia, Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's, Lenten Soup Suppers, Car Wash and our newest fundraiser, "Flocking". Our 12 youth are looking forward to the upcoming ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. We can't wait to tell you all about it.

In February, we returned to Ski Bruele in Iron River, MI for our winter weekend. It was a great weekend of skiing, snowboarding, tubing, cross country skiing and time of bonding. Huge thank you to Dean Knutson for the countless hours of planning! It was a great weekend!

We have been blessed with such great leaders of the youth! Thank you to the Youth Committee for all your hard work and dedication: Dean and Karen Knutson, Lisa McCarthy, Karen Sens, Lisa Glista, Karen Aiello, Molly Swihart and all of the parents who have donated their time in making this youth group a great success.

Confirmation

This year, 24 first and second year students met on Wednesday nights from 6:30 – 8 p.m. A huge thank you to the small group leaders; Lynn Kancian, Anna Kersten, Lori Capelli, Karen Aiello, and Joel Kaufmann. On Reformation Sunday of 2017, 14 students were confirmed. These third year students met in the fall, one-on-one with adult mentors to help grow in their faith as well as work on their faith statements. This third year mentor program was a great success. A huge thank you to those adult mentors.

Vacation Bible School

VBS was held June 26-June 29, 2017 organized by the amazing Amanda Maedke. Kids had a great time learning that Jesus is the one who lights our way and gives us hope for each new day with the Cave Quest themed VBS program. Thank you to all of the amazing volunteers that led groups and activities, served snacks, or helped in any way!

Sunday school

Again, under the leadership of Tanya Brady and Lisa McCarthy, it was a great year for the Sunday School. See their report for more details.

Sunday School Program

The Sunday School Program ran from September 17, 2017 until May 20, 2018. We held Rally Day the same day as the church picnic again; using the meet and greet with teachers during the sermon time of church. We met 12 times in the 1st semester and 17 times in the 2nd. The program continues to serve children 3-years old thru 5th grade. Attendance had decreased in both weekly attendance and annual enrollment; there was an average of 28 children per week (down from 34 last year) and 65 were enrolled (down from 70 last year).

This past year, 22 volunteers helped on a regular basis in the capacity of: program coordinators (2), assistant coordinators (1), music team (1), teachers (15), and photographer (3); of the 22, five were youth volunteers in High School. We struggled with photographer help but found more help towards the end of 2nd semester. Barb Hess stepped into music role and did a great job using only on-line music as no one stepped up to help with guitar or piano. We are hoping that it is in the new organist job description to help with Sunday School music between services.

- Program Coordinators: Tanya Brady and Lisa McCarthy
- Assistant Coordinators: Ralph McCarthy
- Music Team: Barb Hess
- Teachers: (PK/K) Cathy Rutkowski, Kenzie Kugler, Emme Smith, Hallie Wolf, Sara Young and Darlene Isaac, who moved after first semester; (1st / 2nd) Veronica McCarthy, Any Giese, Abby Giese, and Charlene Clark; (3rd /4th /5th) Jenn Sinnen, Jackie McCarthy, Rhiannon Urso, Kristi Schaeffer-Kleutsch and Rachel Taft
- Photographers: Melanie Landro, Neil Kersten, and Lori Booth (end of 2nd semester)
- Videographers: Cindy Aasen

We held our pre-year and mid-year meetings with all teachers and music staff who could attend. To increase attendance mid-year, we held it during the Sunday School hour while the children watched the Christmas Program video with parent volunteers.

Christmas Program Coordinator (John Meyers) directed "Backwards Christmas Pageant". We had three Friday rehearsals for speaking parts only and a Saturday rehearsal for all. The program was held during the 10:30 service on December 17, 2017.

Additional key individuals helped in other sporadic capacities such as birthday card coordinator (Carla Van Berg), baptism remembrances (Terry Sorenson), group craft and scrapbook pages lead (Lynn Kancian), snacks (Chris Daugherty, Samantha McGovern and Jodi Erickson). Of these 30 volunteers, four were new. There were numerous others who also helped in smaller capacities such as with the Christmas Program, assembling the end of the year scrapbook pages and helping add children's handprints to the hallway downstairs.

Two multi-generational activities were held using the Sunday School hour but lead by teams organized by Jodi Iorio. There was a birthday Party for Jesus. New this year was a pajama day to bring awareness to the homeless.

A new curriculum was used this year called Spirit and Truth: Teaching Kids the Heart of Worship. It followed the church year and introduced different parts of the worship service. Each grade level continues to have memorization benchmarks which were shared with the congregation on May 20, 2018, Recognition Sunday. Due to the new curriculum, there was a breakdown of only three classes, PK/K, 1st /2nd, and 3rd /4th / 5th.

The service project this year involved raising almost \$600 for Feed my Starving Children. Other outreach and service projects the children participated in include church participation (grades were combined to help with participation and each grade had two opportunities to serve), singing in church twice, care packages for the youth members away at school (the majority of the items were donated during the ministry of the month), visiting Manor Care Nursing Home (sing and interact with residents by making a craft with them and handing it out), and a Saturday volunteering to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children. The 3rd, 4th and 5th graders received instruction and were asked to help as acolytes.

Expenses were kept within budget thanks to the many parents and teachers who donated money, food, supplies, and classroom décor; despite the fact they are informed that they can be reimbursed. Thank you to Jackie McCarthy who donated her \$100 football pool winnings to Sunday School.

This year the safety policies/procedures which included registration forms (identify allergies, emergency contacts, and photo waiver) and background checks for any new coordinators, teachers, music staff, or photographer, continued to be implemented. An orientation which outlines expectations to new volunteer staff during the interview process continued to be used. We continued to have the requirement that volunteer teachers must be confirmed. No Incident reports were completed this year.

We used three classrooms for class, one for music, and one for the coordinator's office which was shared with choir. One classroom remained open for others to use.

Angie Wollschlager, Jodi Iorio, Cindy Aasen and Pastor Stacy were a huge support to the Program Coordinators. The program was very organized, ran smoothly throughout the year, and ended with a very well received Recognition Sunday Service, where the children not only present their benchmarks as a class but also sang and lead many other parts of the worship service.

Michelle Santelli, Worship Ministry Leader

When asked one year ago to become the Worship Ministry Coordinator, I had no idea just what I was getting myself into. This year has truly been a blessing to work alongside ministry leaders that are committed to serving God and making Lord of Life a friendly, welcoming place for all people. Our worship leaders are extremely dependable, self-guided and dedicated to the service they provide for so many people each week. In April, you may recall our Worship Planning Team sharing a drama skit with the congregation simulating what it would be like to enter worship service without any volunteers preparing for or participating in the service. It was a little scary and an eye-opener to realize just how much manpower is needed to organize our weekly time together. For this reason and more, I want to thank our leaders and the many volunteers that support these areas of ministry. You are truly appreciated.

The Worship Ministry Leaders and I met three times this past year. During this time, we shared the necessary logistics to ensure the major seasonal themes were planned for and services were delivered to the best of our ability. In addition to our in-person meetings, information was consistently exchange and updates provided as they related to details and instructions received from the Leadership Coordinators meeting that I attended monthly. Since we recognize the importance of sharing information and knowledge, the ministry leaders take a proactive stand in assuring that proper communication is provided among ourselves and the volunteers supporting each ministry.

As you know, volunteers are always needed. Our leaders were invited to attend the last new member class to share the purpose and importance of each worship ministry. After hearing about the many opportunities available, we were blessed with a significant number of new members willing to donate their time and talents to our ministries.

This year's Worship Ministry Leaders include:

Linda Stanford - Coffee Hour

Kathy Miller - Altar Care

John Meyer - Drama

Lynn Kancian - Nursery

Mark Sinnen - Ushers

Diane Schaeffer - Communion Bread Bakers

Michelle Eisenhauer - Worship Ministry Schedule Oversight

Patty Molitor - Greeters

Laura Lynch - Communion Assistants

Lou Ann Daniels - Readers

Julie Chase - Worship Arts

Jeff Wollschlager - A/V

Angie Wollschlager - Schedules Volunteers

Again, many thanks to our leaders and volunteers!

Respectfully submitted by...Michelle Santelli

Kathy Sadowski & Peggy Walasek, Servanthood Co-Coordinators

Kathy & Peggy just recently accepted the co-coordinator positions for our Servanthood Ministries and we are so excited to have them in this role. Their acceptance of this position overlapped the deadline for this report, therefore it wasn't fair to ask them for a submission with such short notice. See below for reports from some of our most active Servanthood ministries.

Care Ministry Team and Health Ministry Team: see Parish Nurse's submission.

Lord & Ladies of Lydia – We have been busy this year. We received a cash gift from the VA Auxiliary that was used to buy batting, and was very much appreciated. We also welcome donations of fabric at any time. We use Scrip cards whenever we can. Please remember that we are happy to share our quilts or walker bags with Lord of Life members and friends. Just contact one of us or our Parish Nurse, Sue Quever.

Here is a partial list of our activity this past year:

- Christmas Tea raffle and baskets
- Chemo hats: 346
- 43 Mittens and 5 hats for the homeless
- Quilts for Youth visitors and chaperones 9
- Lutherdale: 18 quilts
- Habitat for Humanity: 1 quilt
- Children's Hospital: 6 quilts
- Dialysis/Chemo quilts: 49
- Foster kids: 18 quilts
- Nursing Home lap quilts: 52
- VA: 3 quilts
- Shalom Center: 1 quilt
- Faith, Hope, and Love (support for Children in crisis): 55 quilts
- Parish Nurse: 1 quilt
- 2 Quilts of Valor

We meet most every Monday evening from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and Thursday morning from 9:00 a.m – Noon in the Multi Purpose Room at church. You are welcome to come and go as you are able. We also have occasional Saturday all-day quilting bees. Anyone is welcome (1/2 of our group are not members of Lord of Life). Bring your own project, help someone, or just stop in to say HI!

We pray for God's blessings on Lord of Life who gives us space and encouragement, those who donate to us, and those we share our gifts with.

Nancy Haldeman
Contact person, Ladies of Lydia

Prayer Shawl Ministry – The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to gather on Monday evenings in the multipurpose room from 6 to 8 p.m. to knit or crochet prayer shawls, prayer squares, baptismal blankets, lap robes, and premie blankets.

In the past twelve months we have given out approximately 40 prayer shawls, and 25 baptismal blankets to newly baptized infants. As our congregation continues to grow we are always looking for new members for our group to help us keep up with the growing need for prayer shawls and baptismal blankets.

I'm very grateful to all of the ladies in the group that take the time to make such beautiful shawls and blankets. They put so much love into each one they make. This ministry would not be possible without each and every one of them.

Christine Mifflin, Prayer Shawl Ministry

Shalom Center Soup Kitchen – We have a team of approximately 10 volunteers from Lord of Life, organized by Kathy Miller, who serve at the Soup Kitchen on the second Tuesday of the even months of the year. With the Shalom Center moving to their new permanent facility, churches are no longer actually making the soup, but we are still needed to make sandwiches and serve the meal. 40-60 people are typically fed each night.

Ministry of the Month – By living into our Core Values, our Congregation is blessed with an abundance of generosity and with an enormous scale of charitable activities. This past year we held the following collections:

June 2016 – We collected non-perishable food items, which our Youth, along with the Youth group from Colorado Springs, delivered to the Shalom Center Food Pantry when they volunteered their time there.

July & August 2017 - We collected school supplies for the ELCA Outreach Center to distribute to children in the community.

September 2017 – We collected items that our Sunday school kids assembled into care packages for our college students.

October 2017 – We collected monetary donations at a Dinner & Dialogue event regarding Human Trafficking for an organization called Selah Freedom, who are in building a shelter for women who have been rescued from sex trafficking.

November 2017 – We collected money and Scrip card donations to create Harvest Food baskets that were donated to families in our own congregation. Each family received a Thanksgiving meal, as well as staples as a base for several other meals.

December 2017 – Our congregation purchased and donated gifts for the ELCA Outreach Center’s annual “Hopes for the Holidays” Gift Drive for children in need in our community.

January 2018 – A “Baby Jesus Diaper Drive” was held and diapers were donated to the ELCA Outreach Center.

February 2018 – We collected travel size toothpaste, dental floss, and individually wrapped adult and child-size toothbrushes which were distributed to students at Frank Elementary School.

March 2018 – We collected items from the wish list of Safe Harbor Humane Society.

April 2018 – In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, we collected brand new men’s & women’s underwear and socks for the S.A.N.E (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) staff at our local hospitals.

May 2018 – We collected items from the needs list of Veterans Outreach Center of Wisconsin (VOW). VOW is committed to assisting homeless and at-risk veterans in returning to a life of normalcy

Thank you to everyone who donated – items, money, time and prayers!

Report from Sue Quever R.N., Parish Nurse

Mission- Promoting healthy living within Lord of Life faith community. Provide holistic nursing by ministering to the parishioners’ physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

Practicing Core Values at Lord of Life

Because of Jesus...

- **We are an accepting and caring community.**
 - ✓ Connection, referral, support, medical information supplied, council, prayer and a listening ear to weekly Lord of Life members as needed and referred by the Pastors or other parishioners.

- ✓ 3rd Sunday Blood Pressure Screening
- ✓ GriefShare Class -12 weeks ; thank you to co-leader Susan Schneider ☺
- ✓ Partnering with the Care Ministry Team –providing communion and spiritual care for the homebound
- ✓ Partnering in the Active Shooter presentation –Thank you Officer Jeff Wamboldt
- ✓ Partnering with GIGGLES women in creating fabulous freezer meals for parishioners needing extra TLC after hospitalization, crisis, etc.
- ✓ Kudos to Cheryl Kasdorf for leading the Praying Partner team which earnestly prays for the needs of the people, church and community as needed
- **We are serving others beyond our walls**
 - ✓ 'Open Doors with the Nurse'- First and Third Monday of the month
 - ✓ Partnering with Aurora SANE program by Collecting undergarments for victims of sexual assault
 - ✓ Provided an educational program for LOL and community about human trafficking – 'Fight to End Exploitation'
 - ✓ Teaching a Women and Children's Horizon group -'Healthy Heart for Women'
 - ✓ Provided 'Build a Natural Medicine Cabinet' program
- **We are an inviting place for children and youth**
 - ✓ Empowering youth to lead the annual 'American Red Cross Blood Drive' – which includes a scholarship program in August and December at Lord of Life Lutheran. Thank you Veronica McCarthy –student co-leader
- **We value meaningful and inspiring worship**
 - ✓ Partaking in the Healing services
 - ✓ Partaking in blessing of the hands with essential oils at worship

Thank you Lord of Life family for allowing me to be a part of your joys and sorrows throughout the year! Your trust and confidence in our partnership is greatly appreciated. May the Lord bless and strengthen your mind, body, and spirit! Let your light shine!

Shalom,

Sue Quever R.N, Parish Nurse
Aurora Parish Nurse Program

Jodi Iorio, Connections Ministry

Purpose: to lead teams of church members in carrying out the Connections Ministry, one of the seven essential ministries of Lord of Life; ensuring that the ministry is in alignment with Lord of Life's mission statement and core values.

1. Fellowship and Special Event opportunities for members and guests
 2. Equipping—spiritual gift development among new and existing members
 3. Hospitality—to welcome members, visitors, & guests. Coordinate Funeral Luncheon Servers and bakers.
 4. Small Groups such as the Hi- Fiver's, Women's fellowship and Men's Fellowship
- Facilitate and lead new member classes

FELLOWSHIP, SPECIAL EVENTS & SMALL GROUPS

- **Rally Day Picnic-** It's the beginning of fall with kids back to school and the start of Sunday school, and confirmation. We had a beautiful day! We now have to rent two big tents, plus more tables and chairs☺ This year we had a dunk tank! We offered a "dunk the

Pastors" challenge!! Thank you to the Hobsons, Denny Persinger & Bill Andreas for preparing and serving the food.

- **Pie Fest**- Pie Fest continues to be a great tradition for many of us here at Lord of Life. All the pie you can eat after our Thanksgiving Eve service. Leader is Amy Giese. Thank you to all who bring pies!
- **Advent Adventure**- This intergenerational craft/learning activity is a fun way for families to learn about Advent together. It is held during the Sunday school hour. This year's leader was Darlene Isaac. Thank you to all the volunteers and Sunday school teachers who helped at a craft station.
- **Women's Christmas Tea**- This past year marked the 11th Anniversary for this beautiful Women's event. A delicious catered lunch, uniquely decorated tables and Christmas entertainment, kick off the holiday season with a bang! This team was led by Julie Chase. Team members were, Michelle Santelli, Jodi Iorio, The Team is already planning our 2018 Women's Christmas Tea.
- **Kenosha Expo**- We could not find a leader for this community event in January, so we did not participate. This event is a great way to be visible and showcase our church in our community. If you would like to coordinate this two day event at the Parkside Fieldhouse, please call the office.
- **Soup Suppers**- Soup suppers are a continued tradition that includes delicious soups every Wednesday during lent. 10-12 soups needed with 70-80 folks filling up the multipurpose room! Our youth ministries were in charge of set up and clean up this year! The offering that was taken during the soup suppers went to the youth who were attending the National Youth Gathering in Texas the last week in June. Thank you to all the volunteers!
- **Volunteer Appreciation Service**- This is one of my favorite weekends☺ This year the program staff loved on all our members and guests with some tasty appetizers, fruit and desserts after all services. John Meyer wrote and coordinated a small skit called, "The No Volunteer Zone". For a short time during worship, we experienced a service with no volunteers! Each service also included the blessing of hands. We are so blessed and thankful to all our volunteers at Lord of Life!
- **Women's Retreat**- This year's retreat was at Siena Retreat Center. The retreat took place in the spring and was themed "Seaside Escape" 19 women attended with Judith Tisserand-Gifford as our session Leader. Thank you Retreat Team for your help! Sonja Wolf, Lori Vogel, Liz Young & Carol Gumbinger.
- **SAVE THE DATE- June 28 & 29th, will be our next Women's Retreat at Siena Retreat Center.**
- **Spiritual Gifts class for Confirmands**- In September I taught a spiritual gifts class to the third year confirmation class. It is so vital for our young adults to know how God gifted them to encourage us and grow in their own faith! If you have not taken the Spiritual gifts survey yet, please go to our website at Lordoflifekenosha.org and click on the "Learn" tab.
- **Funeral Luncheon Servers & Bakers**- Our Funeral servers and bakers set up, served food, coffee, and provided desserts for 5 funerals in our Multi-purpose room this year. I would especially like to thank Carol Gumbinger and Nancy Haldeman for taking the lead as

our Funeral Luncheon Servers. Thank you to all who love to bake desserts and have that gift of hospitality to bless those who mourn.

- **Hi-Fivers (55+)** **Seeking a monthly host to pick and plan an event.** See Jodi Iorio if you are interested.
- **Men's Group**- Our Men's group meets at Gateway Café every Saturday, except on the third Saturday of the month, when they meet at Lord of Life for a Bible Study and "BYOB" – bring your own breakfast. **Ministry Need- Men's group leader**
- **G.I.G.G.L.E.S.** - Stands for Girls in God, Growing, Loving, Eating, and Sharing. This fun group of ladies of all ages meets monthly for food, crafts, education events and service projects. Leader Amanda Maedke. **Ministry need- looking for a hostess to pick or plan a monthly event.** Please call Amanda at 496-2548.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

We held 2 new member classes this year. We welcomed 66 participants in our New Member gatherings. In our New Member Gatherings, we cover what it means to be an ELCA Lutheran, History of our church, spiritual gifts, explanation of our ministries by the ministry leaders and, lastly, getting connected in a ministry where you can grow and thrive in our church family. We had many new families with small children become members this year. The slide show of our new members, on our new tv screen in our lobby has been beneficial in recognizing new members.

SAVE THE DATE: God's Work Our Hands Weekend, September 8th & 9th

*Sign up for work-sites that will be across Kenosha and be God's hands and feet in our community!
Watch your email and our bulletin board in the hallway for sign-up slots*

**Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
June 25, 2017**

Biographies of Council Nominees

John Meyer: I have been a lifelong Lutheran. I feel that I can be an asset to the Church Council. I am aware of the commitment it takes to serve in this capacity. I served on the Church Council in my last Church for 7 years and was the Council President for 4 of those years. They had 3 year terms and I served for 2 terms and our Pastor retired (medical reasons) and they asked me to stay on for one more year. I feel the work I do here at Lord of Life speaks for itself. I am involved, committed, and dedicated to serving the Church, and the goals it has set out. Not only inside our community but beyond. This is an extremely exciting time for our congregation. As we grow and move forward we need strong leaders to map out the present and future.

I am very good with strategic planning and budgets. I owned my own company for almost 40 years so I have a tremendous amount of experience in that area. I feel that the core values and visioning that Lord of Life employs currently is strong. I would like to see that continue. I work at a High School so I am very in tune with what is going on with youth today. Our youth is our future so that should be a priority for us.

Liz Young: I am excited at the prospect of serving on the church council. I have been a member of Lord of Life for ten years, and enjoy being a part of the Joy and a Celebration band on Saturday nights. This church is a wonderfully inclusive and family friendly environment; I look forward to seeing this continue as we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus within the community.

Sonja Wolfe: I am the eldest child of four. I have one daughter and one granddaughter. I work taking care of a niece and am an aunt to several nephews and nieces. I love caring for my family and friends; it's part of who I am. I love my Lord of Life congregation and singing in our contemporary band on Saturdays evenings. I recently graduated from the two year Diakonia program, which is a process of spiritual formation and theological education. These classes provided me with the opportunity to discover my God-given gifts and strengthen my faith. I was also recently elected to the Synod Council of our Greater Milwaukee Synod, which meets on a quarterly basis. I look forward to serving on the Council of Lord of Life.

Jackie McCarthy: Hello, my name is Jackie McCarthy. I am 21 years old. My family and I have been members here at Lord of Life since 2007. I have a dad named Ralph, my mom's name is Lisa, and my younger sister's name is Veronica (18 years old). I have taught Sunday school for over 8 years. I started when I was a freshman in high school to the present; teaching from K all the way to 5th grade and love teaching of all ages. I am a welder/factory worker for over 2 years at Northlake Engineering in Bristol, Wisconsin. My second job is at Kaisers' pizza and pub located downtown Kenosha. I have worked there for over 4 ½ years, since I was a senior in high school. I cannot wait to add a council member to my resume!