

Annual Report to the Congregation

June 2016 – May 2017



Transforming lives through Grace...

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

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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

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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 25, 2017

I. Call to Order.....Lou Molitor, President

II. Quorum Requirement – 66
a. Total in attendance_____

b. Quorum met: yes / no

III. Opening Prayer..... Pastor Stacy Seger

IV. Approval of Agenda

V. Approval of June 26, 2016 minutes

VI. Pastor’s & Ministry Leader Annual Reports

VII. Council Election

- Outgoing Council members
- Nominating Team Report
- Vote
- Appointment of Nominating Team for 2017-2018

VIII. New Business

- Call Committee Update
- Ministry in Context

IX. Closing Prayer.....Pastor Stacy Seger

Annual Meeting of Lord of Life Lutheran Church, June 25, 2017 (for the year June 2016 – May 2017)

Annual Meeting Minutes, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, June 26, 2016

- I. Meeting Called to Order: 11:02 am
 - a. Jeff Wamboldt, Council President, presiding over the meeting
 - b. Quorum:
 - i. Members needed for quorum: 71
 - ii. In attendance: 71
 - iii. Quorum met
- II. Pastor Stacy Seger led in prayer
- III. Approval of Meeting Agenda
 - a. Jean Walrath motioned to approve the agenda
 - b. Shirley Hauck 2nd the motion
 - c. No discussion
 - d. All in favor/none opposed
 - e. Agenda approved
- IV. Approval of the June 28, 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes
 - a. Tim Van Berg motioned to approve minutes from June 28, 2015
 - b. David Houghton 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.
 - b. Angie will post these reports on the website, so that others can view these reports that were not here today.
- VI. Council Election
 - a. Outgoing Members: Jim Erickson, Wendy Haugstad, Jeff Wamboldt
 - b. Nominating team report by Jeff Wamboldt
 1. Nominated individuals are
 - a. Leslie Holloway
 - b. Carla Van Berg
 - c. Kathy Sadowski
 - d. Anna Kersten (who was appointed to fill Alexis Unger's position when she resigned due to moving out of the area)
 - c. Mark Sinnen motioned for a voice vote due to there being 4 positions and 4 nominees.
 1. John Meyer 2nd
 2. No discussion
 3. Motion for voice vote approved
 - d. Motion to elect nominees
 1. Jean Walrath motions to elect nominees
 2. Marie Persinger 2nd
 3. No discussion

4. All in favor/none opposed
5. Nominees approved
- e. Appointment of Nominating Team for 2016-17
 - i. Lou Molitor
 - ii. John Meyer
 - iii. David Houghton

VII. New Business

- a. HR Team Report by Leslie Holloway and Laura Craemer Rasch
 - i. HR team will present job description of part time church administrator to Church Council in July.
 - ii. Next steps are putting together hiring team, posting job, interviews, and special meeting to approve amended budget.
- b. Stewardship for All Seasons Report by Greg Schaeffer

VIII. Discussion

- a. Anita Cate – concerned about gay marriage.
 - i. Pastor Stacy responded that it's legal in the USA and is ok with the ELCA. Pastor Stacy offered to meet with her at another time to discuss.
- b. Lynda Jobman concerned about special music limited to once per month in Dave Kapralian's report.
 - i. Pastor said that special music refers to non LOL groups. Lynda appreciated clarification.
- c. Bev Estes brought up loudness of band at Saturday night service. Pastor Stacy will talk to sound board

IX. Closing Prayer – Pastor Stacy

X. Motion to Adjourn: John Meyer

- a. 2nd David Houghton
- b. Meeting adjourned 11:29am

Annual Reports to the Congregation:

June 2016 – May 2017

Pastor Stacy Seger

Dear friends –

Thank you for an amazing year! Your passion, faith and commitment to the work we do here together continues to inspire me and so many others beyond our walls. We have celebrated many successes since last summer: we have **worshipped** together over 170 times, we have provided almost 2000 meals to approximately 700 **INNS** guests, we've loved and nurtured nearly 100 **children** through Sunday School, VBS and sports camp, we have seen participation in adult **small groups** almost double and our community continues to **grow!**

Psychologist Abraham Maslow is credited with saying "In any given moment we have two options: to step forward into growth or to step back into safety." I am so proud of the ways in which you have stepped faithfully into the future God is calling us to. Your responses to the Stewardship campaign were bold, your support for our new staff and changing structure was encouraging and your excitement for "what's next" is contagious.

There is still much to be done. As your pastor, I was nominated by our bishop for and accepted into a 2-year pastoral leadership program run by Gettysburg Seminary. Over the course of these next two years I will learn more about leading a larger, growing congregation and how to structure mission, ministry and staffing effectively and responsibly. I will dedicate myself to growing right alongside all of you.

As we continue to grow in to the congregation God is calling us to be, there will be more opportunities for volunteers and leaders to share their gifts for the sake of our mission and ministry. We are, indeed, blessed with a core group of volunteer leaders who have been faithfully sharing their talents with us. We will need to add to that group as we continue to grow. Please prayerfully consider how God may be calling you help our congregation move forward into the future.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your pastor. Silas, Sam, Sophie and I are blessed by the ways you love and encourage us. We are grateful to a part of this church family and we are looking forward to a bright future.

In peace & with hope –

Pr Stacy

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Annual Statistics for June 2016-May 2017, compiled by Angie Wollschlager, Office Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS AS OF MAY 31, 2017

872 Baptized (everyone) 937 as of May 31, 2016	660 Confirmed (adults) 705 as of May 31, 2016
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(A clean-up of our membership roll was done in September, causing the decrease in numbers.)

AVERAGE WEEKLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FROM JUNE 1, 2016-MAY 31, 2017: 294

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

From June 1, 2015-May 31, 2016: 292

WEDDINGS

June 18, 2016: Travis Decker (member) & Cathy Forsyth
June 25, 2016: Chelsea Reuter & John Seng, offsite
October 8, 2016: Daniel Follak & Ashley Corrao
October 8, 2016: Nicholas McCoy & Jasmine Hoppe
October 15, 2016: Jack & Cheryl Kasdorf
May 28, 2017 Jamine White & Moriah Gomez, non-members, held offsite

FUNERALS

June 24, 2016: Dennis Sadowski
June 24, 2016: Earl Thomas
June 25, 2016: Taylor Skendziel, offsite
July 29, 2016: Aiden Townsend, non-member
October 1, 2016: Frank Wessel, non-member
October 24, 2016: Donna Patton, member
November 22, 2016: Timothy "TJ" Johnson, non-member
March 30, 2017: Caryn Ward, member
April 18, 2017: Jean Anderson, former member

BAPTIZED

June 5, 2016: Charlotte Marie Smith, daughter of Rachel & Nick Smith, non-members
June 12, 2016: Agibail Ann Simpkins, daughter of Elizabeth Simpkins, member
June 12, 2016: Mackenzie Madelyn Simpkins, daughter of Elizabeth Simpkins, member
June 26, 2016: Carter John Pecha, son of Jodi Pecha, non-member
June 26, 2016: Harper Helen Pecha, daughter of Jodi Pecha, non-member
August 14, 2016: Aiden Rademacher, son of David & Ally Rademacher, members
September 4, 2016: Lincoln Hanna, son of Scott & Amanda Hanna
September 25, 2016: Kinsley Baranowski, daughter of Brad & Kristin Baranowski
October 2, 2016: Abigail Grazier, daughter of Bob & Sharon Grazier
October 2, 2016: Brayden Vandeville, son of Mike & Melissa Vandeville
October 23, 2016: Jessica Claeys, daughter of Ashley Claeys
November 12, 2016: Greyson Lambrecht, son of Katie Lambrecht, member
November 13, 2016: Benjamin Pascucci, son of Dan & Cheryl Pascucci, members
November 19, 2016: Chris Griffin, adult member
November 20, 2016: Emma Sexson, daughter of Mikal & Jessica Sexton, non-members
February 18, 2017: Hazel Lu Guttormsen, daughter of Nikki & Eric Guttormsen, members
February 19, 2017: James Daniel Lutz, son of Jamie & Jonathan Lutz, members
April 1, 2017: Maxton Bergman, son of Amber Estes & Andrew Bergman
April 1, 2017: Cael Bergman, son of Andrew Bergman

May 21, 2017: Mitchell James Tungate, son of Michael & Candice Witek, members
May 21, 2017: Coralie Marie Witek, son of Michael & Candice Witek, members
May 28, 2017: Ri Hurlbut, son of Ashlie & Donald Hurlbut, members: performed at hospital
May 28, 2017: Soane Maryann Hobson, daughter of Victoria Hobson & Brandon Rasmussen Wolff, members

CONFIRMED October 30, 2016

Tyler Andrews	Adam Orr
Nathan Brewer	Drew Rasmussen
Thomas Erickson	Emersen Smith
Natalie Gardina	Taylor Thompson
Abigail Giese	Jacob Weber
Nathan Klimisch	Trevor Wikstrom
Brittany Kugler	Hallie Wolf

MEMBERS RECEIVED - OTHER THAN BY BAPTISM

October 9, 2016

Brad & Kristen Baranowski
Steve & Kathy Engels
Scott & Amanda Hanna
Matt & Ashley Hanson
Mike & Melissa McDowell
Kathi & John Strott & Savannah
Rhiannon & Chris Urso & 4 children
Mike & Katie Fisher & 5 children

February 14, 2017

Linda Johnson
Tracy & Martin Pavilionis, Samantha & Andrew
Dick & Leslie Wood

May 7, 2017

Donald & Ashlie Hurlbut
Ann Hooper, Zachary
Victoria Hobson & Brandon Rasmussen-Wolff
Michael & Candice Witek, Alexis
Kristen Wold

MEMBERS REMOVED (Mostly due to moving out of the area, or inactivity.)

Keith & Emily Agner
Linda Agness
Susan Ambrose
Koreynne Aull
Dan & Shawn Banks
Dustin & Stephanie Barnett
Bailey Behlke
Dan Beland, Sam & Ben
Philip & Stephanie Betthausen, Grace
Jack Betz, Kyle
Taylor Bjork
Michael & Tiffaney Block; Ellexis, Sydney
Bruce & Kay Bloedorn, Brooke, Noah

Aaron Blonski
Victor Claeys
Adam Daniels
Jason & Julie Denny, Ryne
Mark & Dana DiCello, Anthony, Jake
Joel & Kathy Dutton, Riley, Rory & Reece
Jenna Eckhert
Jeremy & Sara Ennis
Scott & Christine Feldy; Jackie, Edmond
Fred & Angela Fitzpatrick, Frederick, Grace
Janice Frillman
Steve & Alex Garland
Jeff & Shanna Garland
Tiffany Glynn, Noah
Makenna Gross
Bonnie Hammerschlag
Jean Heyduck
Heather & Kyra Hood, Dallas Squires
Sue Hooser
Dan & Elaine Johnson
Keith Kaspar, Seth
Derek Landwehr
Kasey Lois
Cathy Lovingfoss
Eddie & Morgan Makar
Robert & Katie Messenger
Matthew Michels
Christopher & Kiira Murray
Alyse & Derek Nelsen
Ernest & Lynn Parks, Ryan
Patti Prostko
Carol Rannow, Eric
Mike & Betty Rasmussen
Elizabeth Simpkins, Emily, Abigail, Mackenzie
Kevin & Deana Smith, Sydnee, Gavin
Brian & Jenny Stogsdill, Allison, Tristan
Katie Sullivan
Dan & Amber Swanson
Matthew Swartz
Aiden Thouvenin
Amy & Brian Tripp
Tyler & Morgan Vidas
Rob & Romey Walden, Eric, Adam, Megan Ashley
Ryann & Jensen Wohlgemuth
Sue Yackley, Amanda, Emma, Kate
Josh Zimmerman

President's Report

Lou Molitor, Council President

Every day is a great day to be at Lord of Life Lutheran Church!

What a great church we have! We have a growing, thriving congregation with many families and kids. We have talented and spiritual members that allow Lord of Life to provide meaningful ministries to all members of the church... young, old and in between. We have generous members that not only help Lord of Life be financially strong, but also pitch in the extra funding that we need for last minute projects and needs. It is a great time to be part of Lord of Life; and our best days are yet to come.

I have been blessed to be a part of the Lord of Life Council and, in fact, to be the President of the Council. Working with me on the Council this year has been Leslie Holloway, Anna Kersten, Carla Van Berg, Dan Sinnen, Kathy Sadowski, Norma Lundstrom and, of course, Pastor Stacy and Sharon Beu. This incredible team worked hard to produce many positive results for the church. Along with the Finance Team, we developed and approved for adoption a strong budget to guide us in 2017. Our Stewardship efforts were very successful, which helped meet budget revenue expectations, thereby, allowing our programs and ministries to flourish.

The Council also paved the way for the hiring of Sharon Beu, our church administrator. Sharon has been a welcome addition to the staff and has allowed Pastor Stacy to focus more on pastoral duties rather than administrative duties. The Council has also created a search committee for the purpose of hiring a second pastor. The Call should be finalized by the end of 2017 and, with God's grace, we will have a second pastor in 2018.

During my year as Council President, the thing that impressed and excited me most of all was the vitality of the congregation, staff and volunteers. Lord of Life could not be as successful as it is without the passion and energy of those involved with the church. I cannot say thank you enough to Pastor Stacy, Sharon and all of the staff, as well as the Ministry Leads and volunteers. With the continued efforts of all of us, and God's blessings, Lord of Life Lutheran Church will continue to Transform Lives Through Grace!

God Bless,

Lou Molitor

Sharon Beu, Church Administrator

The congregation of Lord of Life made a studied and conscious decision to add a Church Administrator to its staff in 2016, to address the business functions of the church. I am honored to be the one chosen to first fill the position. I have almost 20 years of experience as a church administrator, in both a United Methodist congregation and an ELCA congregation in Rockford, IL. My prior experience includes 18 years as an independent insurance agent/agency owner, banking, and my own consulting business providing bookkeeping and tax preparation services. I hold the designation of Certified Church Business Administrator from the National Association of Church Business Administration.

From my first day here, I have been learning names and faces, as well as procedures and functions. I have seen what is done well, and observed those things that can use a tweak here and there. Part of my role is to update and/or write policies and procedures, and ensure they are being followed. One of the unique features of a church is that it is a not-for-profit, which has rules and guidelines that differ from standard business operations in a number of ways. My goal is to always ensure that we don't lose sight of that, and to make necessary changes to fit within that gifted tax status.

A major switch taking place at this time is a move to a comprehensive Church Management Software program that incorporates all congregational data and communication abilities, as well as full fund-based accounting and payroll. Our bookkeeper/treasurer, Claudia Murillo, does a great job using QuickBooks, but that system is not designed for our needs. Claudia has experience using

the new system, so the transition is welcomed by her. Staff and Leaders will be trained by the end of summer, and we look forward to rolling out the communication options to the congregation by or before September 1. You will have the opportunity to check or update the information in your family's profile, review your annual giving, and communicate with staff, leaders, and other members.

The internet service for the church is hardly adequate for one staff member; when the full office staff is present, service is mostly unavailable. That is being addressed and upgraded, which will allow for better productivity, and much less frustration.

Part of my responsibilities include Finance, and I am pleased to have several people willing to work with the budgeting and review of the church's financial health on the Finance Team. This is an area that could use a few more people, and a Team Lead – please contact me if you have an interest in serving this way. Thanks to Greg Schaeffer for his long-time work with the Finance Team, including budget preparation, mortgage negotiation and all things financial for the church, and for his initial orientation with me.

An off-shoot of the Finance Team includes the Teller Team, led by Dave Klimisch, who count the offerings and other monies coming into the church; the Financial Secretary, Pat Skinner, who enters contributions to enable tax statements for your contributions; the Memorial Fund Team, led by Diane Schaeffer, working with memorial and other special gifts designated to the church; the Scrip program, led by Jean Garretto, with volunteers that sell Scrip cards that result in a wonderful alternative funding source for the church; and Simply Giving coordinator, Darrell Jobman, setting up, recording and reporting online contributions (Darrell is retiring from this position this summer, to be replaced by Jennifer Johnson [previously a Financial Secretary] in the Fall. An Audit Team needs to be re-initiated, and I welcome discussion with you if you have background in this area. I thank each member of these Teams, and the leaders, for their work, and for their patience as we work to ensure full accountability through each function.

The HR Team has been very helpful, as they work to assist me in assimilating information on existing policies in order to review and amend as needed. I appreciate and thank Elke Gramza and Laura Craemer-Rasch for their dedication to the staff and personnel issues of LoL, and look forward to continuing to work with them on Employee Handbook review and other personnel-related policies.

I work with the Property Team, and have a great group of talented and ambitious people involved. We do not have a Team Lead, and I would welcome your inquiries about what is involved if you might have an interest in that position. The Team is taking on the various areas of responsibility, and quite a few things have been accomplished in my short time here. I would like to extend my thanks to Ed Gramza for the many years he filled the leadership position for the Property Team, and for his orientation to the building for me. Ed continues to be a part of the Team, sharing his vast knowledge and experience of the history of the building.

My work with the Leadership/Coordinators allows me to assist with communication and with overall knowledge of events and plans of the congregation. I have much respect for your Council members, as they have worked to support me. Each leader/coordinator/Council member works with the best interest of Lord of Life in mind as they plan and make decisions for the church.

Your staff here at Lord of Life is incredible! They welcomed me so warmly, and have embraced me being here. Angie is the epitome of quiet efficiency, Pastor Cindy is committed to the families and youth here, Jodi loves her work and each of you (!), and Sue is one of the best parish nurses I've had the pleasure to work with. Pastor Stacy is passionate about Grace and delivering the message of it to you and the community; she has a heart as big as Kenosha, rejoices and mourns with you, and I hope my being here relieves her of administrative duties that I can take over.

I thank you for the blessing of serving here at Lord of Life Lutheran with you. I have many goals on my agenda. Transparency is important here, and I will keep you informed as we go.

As a fellow Lutheran, I'm looking forward to the celebration of 500 years of Lutheranism. Yay, Martin!

Cindy Aasen, Interim Youth Director and Children's Ministry Leader

*"For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers."
Ephesians 1:15-16*

There is so much to be thankful for in this past year. While continuing to fill the role of Interim Director of Youth and Family for the past two and a half years, I am so thankful for God providing great leaders to work with our youth. I am so thankful for wonderful youth and their families from whom I have learned so much. I am so thankful for Pastor Stacy Seger, such a wonderful staff and council here at Lord of Life to share in the ministry of Jesus Christ! I am thankful for the congregation and as we work towards the calling of a second pastor. It is a privilege for me to be working as the interim until this pastor is called. This past year was also notable as I was reinstated to the clergy roster.

Our ministry of the past year:

Youth

I am so thankful for Danni Dunasky and Molly Swihart for leading WeB on Sunday mornings with our middle schoolers this year. It is so exciting to have Danni begin seminary this coming fall in pursuit of ordination. She will be missed, but what a wonderful gift to the Church!

On July 15, 2016, twenty-nine youth and adults journeyed out to Colorado Springs, CO to join up in a week of mission work with youth and adults from Ascension Lutheran in Colorado Springs, CO. We had a great week getting to know this great youth group and are looking forward to having them join us this summer in July for a week of mission work here in Kenosha. We are looking forward to the following summer of meeting up with them in Houston, TX for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. There have been fantastic work done to help raise money and having the group bond through Team Trivia Night, Pancake breakfast at Applebee's, as well as bake sales, car wash and the selling of Youth Stock. We are thankful for a very generous congregation and very dedicated parents who have led these events.

With the dissolving of YouthQuake, a new event was a winter weekend retreat to Ski Brule in Iron River, MI. It was a great weekend of skiing, snowboarding, tubing, cross country skiing and time of bonding. Huge thank you to Dean Knutson for the idea and 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: Danni Dunasky, Dean and Karen Knutson, Michael Lein, Lisa and Ralph McCarthy, and Karen Sens.

Confirmation

This year, 28 first and second year students met on Wednesday nights from 6:30 – 8 p.m. A huge thank you to the small group leaders; Cathy Mossman, Karen Sens, Janet Swihart, Lori Vogel, Lindsey Deinhammer, Anna Kersten, Lori Capelli and Joel Kaufman. Thank you again, Janet, for great record keeping! On Reformation Sunday of 2016, 14 students were confirmed. These third year students met in the fall with one on one 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

Once again, the terrific trio of Amy Hyland, Amanda Maedke and Cathy Rutkowski led a great group of teachers, assistants and children in a week of Vacation Bible School. Thank you to all who participated.

Sports Camp

It was another exciting week of a half day sports camp led by Michael Lein, Thomas Erickson and Danni Dunasky. Thank you to all the adults, middle and high schoolers who helped out to staff!

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.

We have so much to be thankful for here at Lord of Life. I am so thankful for all those whom I have had the privilege of sharing the love and ministry of Jesus Christ.

God's Peace to you – Pr. Cindy Aasen

Sunday School Program

The Sunday School Program ran from September 18, 2016 until May 21, 2017. We held Rally Day the same day as the church picnic again; however, this year we incorporated a meet and greet with teachers during the sermon time of church. We met 14 times in the 1st semester and 18 times in the 2nd. The program continues to serve children 3-years old thru 5th grade. Attendance had maintained in the number of children enrolled and decreased in the weekly attendance; there was an average of 34 children per week (down from 43 last year) and 70 were enrolled (the same as last year).

This past year 23 volunteers helped on a regular basis in the capacity of: program coordinators (2), assistant coordinators (2), music team (2), teachers (14), and photographer (3); of the 23, four were youth volunteers in High School. We had a real struggle with photographer help the first semester but found more help 2nd semester. We lost our music lead after first semester and Josh Robinson stepped up to take the main role, doing a fantastic job. Recognition also needs to go to Carla Van berg who single handedly kept up with both birthday cards and baptism remembrances all year, Cindy Aasen who made out Christmas Program video, and Jacob Weber who made our end of year video.

- Program Coordinators: Tanya Brady and Lisa McCarthy
- Assistant Coordinators: Ralph McCarthy and Hallie Wolf
- Music Team: Beth Smith and Josh Robinson
- Teachers: (PK) Cathy Rutkowski, Kenzie Kugler, Emme Smith; (K) Janet Swihart, Kristi Schaeffer-Kleutsch, Amy Hyland; (1st / 2nd) Jackie McCarthy, Morgan Knutson, Charlene Clark; (3rd) Amy Giese, Jenn Sinnen, Veronica McCarthy; (4th/5th) Kerrie Gardina, and Amanda Maedke
- Photographers: Melanie Landro, Neil Kersten, and Jacob Weber (2nd semester only)

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 again while the children watched the Christmas Program video with parent volunteers. This year we used an end of year survey again; we received good feedback from the survey.

Christmas Program Coordinator (John Meyers) directed "The Surprising Christmas Pageant". We had added an extra Friday rehearsal; however, weather was not cooperative for the pageant rehearsals and two were canceled, but one was rescheduled. The pageant was also moved to Wednesday night as the make-up practice took place on the day the show was scheduled to originally take place. Much thanks to all the volunteers, staff and parents who were so flexible in helping it be a great show!

Additional key individuals helped in other sporadic capacities such as birthday card coordinator and baptism remembrances (Carla Van Berg), group craft and scrapbook pages lead (Lynn Kancian), snacks (Chris Daugherty), Inns Coordinator (Leslie Sepanski) and regular subs (Kristi Wilke and Deb Blonski). Of these 30 volunteers, four were new. There were numerous others who also

helped in smaller capacities such as Christmas Program, INNS set up, and the Fundraiser Day activity.

Two multi-generational activities were held using the Sunday School hour but lead by teams organized by Jodi Iorio. Advent Adventures was coordinated by Heidi & Mackenzie Konz and Road to Resurrection was organized by Amanda Maedke and Jodi Iorio. We also had another successful Birthday Party for Jesus, which was coordinated under Sunday School leadership.

Witness and Spark Curriculums continue to be used; PK Teachers continue to use a curriculum based on stories that teach the children who Jesus is. Each grade level continues to have memorization benchmarks which were shared with the congregation on May 21, 2017, Recognition Sunday. Due to lower attendance, 1st and 2nd grades were combined and used the 2nd grade curriculum. The 4th and 5th grades continue to be combined, alternating the curriculum from year to year; using the 4th grade curriculum this year.

The service project this year involved raising \$850 for Southeastern Wisconsin Special Olympics through regular giving and an activity fundraising day. 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, INNS set up four times, care packages for the youth members away at school (the majority of the items were donated by Sunday School families), visiting Manor Care Nursing Home (sing and interact with residents by making a craft with them and handing it out), hand out Mother's Day flowers, and Fundraiser Day. The 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 Lisa McCarthy who donated her \$250 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 five classrooms for class and one for the coordinator's office which was shared with choir. This year we had shared our space on two occasions; 4th/5th grade split their room to share with the New Member class for two weeks.

Angie Wollschlager, 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.

Sherry Sinnen, Worship Ministry Leader

It's been a blessing serving as the Worship Ministry Leader the past 7+ years. We have exceptionally strong, skilled, conscientious dependable Logistics and Worship Arts teams and volunteers. I huge thank you to all the team leaders and the many volunteers that support these ministry areas.

The Logistics and Worship Arts Team Leaders continue to meet quarterly at a minimum which ensures our major holidays and seasonal themes are planned and carried out as flawlessly as possible. This team is made up of leaders that are proactive and raise up concerns, suggest improvements and are ready to step up to opportunities and challenges. This team also does a great job recognizing volunteers that serve in this ministry.

A couple years ago we formed a Worship Planning Team and we've continued to meet two to three times a year. This team includes the Music Director, John Meyer (Drama), Michelle Eisenhauer, Pastor Stacy and myself. I scheduled these meetings on a seasonal basis to plan worship in advance of upcoming major holidays and seasons. At this meeting, we look at all aspects of worship preparation for a season which includes our theme, church decorations and worship enhancements such as drama and music. After this meeting, we execute against these plans. This has improved communication to a great extent and allows the opportunity for all Worship Team Leaders and volunteers to be in the loop on our plans. This planning helps ensure the best worship experience possible.

The ministries and the team leaders that make up the Logistics team are shown below. A big thank you to these faithful leaders! They were a joy to work with and an inspiration to all!

Acolytes – Angie Wollschlager schedules volunteers	Readers – Lou Ann Daniels
Coffee and Treats - Amy Giese	Assistant Ministers – Leslie Holloway
Greeters – Patty Molitor	A/V – Jeff Wollschlager
Altar Care – Kathy Miller	Communion Bread Bakers – Diane Schaeffer
Communion Assistants – Laura Lynch	Ushers – Mark Sinnen
Drama – John Meyer	Worship Arts – OPEN
Office Coordination – Angie Wollschlager	
Worship Ministry Schedule Oversight – Michelle Eisenhauer	

We are always in need of volunteers. If you have an interest in serving in any Worship ministry, please see the team leaders listed above.

After prayerful consideration, I've decided to step down from this ministry. I'm retiring from my job at S. C. Johnson the end of June and we're expecting our first grandchild the beginning of June. Now seemed like a good time to step back and evaluate what other opportunities are out there for me to serve that bring me renewed energy, passion and joy. This was a very hard decision for me given the great teams I was working with! I will miss working with them!

Thank you again to all the volunteers and Team Leaders in the Worship Ministry. We are grateful for your service and ministry. It's been a privilege working with you. Thank you to the congregation for all your help and support!

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Sinnen

Charlene Clark, Servanthood Coordinator

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

Lord & Ladies of Lydia – We have had a productive year. Your donations of fabric are always welcome and appreciated. Jackie McCarthy donated her Fantasy Football winnings to us, and it bought a roll of batting, with some change left over. We try to use Scrip cards whenever we can. Thank you so much, Jackie.

Please remember that we are happy to share our quilts or walker bags with Lord of Life members and friends, as we know their needs.

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

- Christmas Tea raffle and basket
- 34 walker bags, donated to nursing home
- 1 quilt to an assisted living facility
- 1 quilt for the CUSH auction (went for \$300)
- 10 quilts for the Lutherdale Quilt Auction
- 4 quilts for our youth to donate while on the mission trip to Colorado
- 10 quilts to Cancer Treatment Centers of America

- 308 Chemo hats
- 47 children's quilts
- 43 lap quilts
- 34 quilts for foster children
- 34 quilts for Children's Hospital

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 Lord of Life members) – bring your 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 gathered this past year on Monday nights in the multipurpose room at 6 p.m. to knit or crochet prayer shawls, prayer squares, baptismal blankets, lap robes, and preemie blankets.

In the past 12 months we have made 60 prayer shawls, and given out 30 to those in need. We have also been very busy knitting and crocheting 30 baptismal blankets of which 23 were given as gifts to newly baptized infants.

In addition to our ministries here at Lord of Life, we were also able to give 12 prayer shawls to Hospice Alliance in Kenosha. They are always very grateful to receive them. We also donated several preemie blankets to St. Joseph's Hospital in Milwaukee for use in their NICU, and several lap robes for the elderly patients in their HELP program. One blanket was also donated by Arlene Hall to University Hospital in Madison for use in their chemotherapy department. Thank you Arlene!

The cabinet that Don Estes, from our congregation, made for us last summer to store and display our prayer shawls in is working well. It is now displayed in the narthex where members of the congregation are able to choose a prayer shawl whenever needed. All they need to do is sign and date the book on top of the cabinet so we are able to keep track of how many are be given out. Thank you Don for making this beautiful cabinet for our ministry!

Christine Mifflin
Prayer Shawl Ministry

Shalom Center Soup Kitchen – We have a team of approximately 10 volunteers from Lord of Life who serve at the Soup Kitchen on the second Tuesday of the even months of the year. Kathy Miller, our team lead, made an average of 9 gallons of soup or chili each time we served! 80-110 people are typically fed each night.

INNS (Interfaith Nightly Network Shelter) Team – From October 2016 through April 2017, we completed our 26th year in the INNS ministry, to serve the homeless families and individuals in our Kenosha community. There were approximately 50 INNS volunteers, plus our K – 5 Sunday school students and the Men's Group, who both helped in setting up the multi-purpose room for the INNS guests. Without our volunteers, Lord of Life could not provide dinner and breakfast, a safe, warm place to sleep, and packed lunches to send off with the INNS guests for the next day. During these 7 months, our INNS team was able to stay within their budget due to the generosity from the congregation. This was the last season that Lord of Life will be hosting INNS guests in our church, as the Shalom Center plans to be open by mid-August with a facility to house the INNS individuals and families. We are so grateful and blessed for all the support for the INNS ministry for all these years. Thank you! Submitted by Tom & Leslie Sepanski

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 travel and hotel size toiletries and socks that our youth took with them on the mission trip to Colorado Springs, Colorado and donated them to an agency in the community they served.

July & August 2016 - We collected school supplies for the ELCA Outreach Center to distribute to children in the community.

September 2016 – We collected supplies for Safe Harbor Humane Society.

October 2016 – We collected items that our Sunday school kids assembled into care packages for our college students.

November 2016 – 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 2016 – 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.

February 2017 – We collected toothpaste, dental floss and toothbrushes in recognition of Children's Dental Health month and donated the collected items to the INNS program and the ELCA Outreach Center.

March 2017 – We collected diapers of all sizes for the ELCA Outreach Center.

April 2017 – In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, we collected brand new women's underwear and socks for the S.A.N.E (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) staff at our local hospitals. These specially trained registered nurses provide forensic evaluations and emotional support to victims of sexual assault. Undergarments are often kept as evidence, therefore the S.A.N.E. staff distribute replacements to the victims.

May 2017 – We honored those that have served our country by writing cards and notes to veterans which were delivered to Union Grove Veterans Home for distribution to their residents.

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.
 - ✓ Sunday Blood Pressure Screening
 - ✓ Virtual Dementia Tour
 - ✓ GriefShare Class
 - ✓ Martin Luther Lenten Walk – "Here We Walk"
 - ✓ Advance Care Directive Class
 - ✓ Partnering with the Care Ministry Team –providing communion and spiritual care for the homebound

- ✓ Uniting with the Heavenly meals team in creating fabulous 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. Many thanks to Dolores Arnett for leading this team of prayer warriors for six years, retiring from this position at the end of 2016.
- **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
- **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
- **We value meaningful and inspiring worship**
 - ✓ Participating in a pre-election service – promoting healthy mental attitudes
 - ✓ 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! Shine on!

Shalom,

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

Lori Vogel, Adult Spiritual Development

I continue to be blessed with adults who are willing to step out of their comfort zone to lead us in bible study as well as book studies. I can't tell you how thankful I am to have them. As participants of the various groups will attest, being part of a small group to help us grow in our faith is a worthwhile use of our time. Not only is it a time of study and learning, but it is a time of fellowship and support. Our adult classes continue to grow and new opportunities are popping up. We have several opportunities for adults to attend. I again encourage you to prayerfully consider leading a group, joining one of our groups (even if it's just a few times to try it out), or talking to Pastor Stacy about new opportunities you would like to see!

Women's Growth Group: Thursday evenings (Leadership is shared by Jodi Iorio, Deb Blonski & Charlene Clark)

All-Ages Group: *Soul Food*, Wednesday afternoons. (Led by Pastor Stacy)

Adult Study: *Inspire*, Sunday mornings (led by June Pomatto)

All Church: Our Stewardship campaign kicked off at the end of October 2016 with the theme of *Now's the time for COURAGE!* Each of our Lord of Life families were given a 30-day devotional book titled "Now's the Time: A 30-Day Journey of Inspiration, Faith, and Action". Pastor Stacy's sermons through the Advent season reflected the themes from the book, which are: Time for Hope, Time for Grace, Time for Connection, and Time for Compassion.

At the end of April, small groups began meeting for approximately 8 weeks to discuss the book "Love Wins", by Rob Bell. With searing insight, Bell puts hell on trial with a hopeful message- eternal life doesn't start when we die; it starts right now. And ultimately, *Love Wins*.

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
5. Facilitate and lead new member classes

FELLOWSHIP, SPECIAL EVENTS & SMALL GROUPS

- **Rally Day Picnic-** Doesn't everybody just love a picnic? It seems so, because we sure see LOTS of our members and friends at our 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☺ Bingo was enjoyed and the kids had carnival games, face painting and a scavenger hunt. Thank you to Sherry Sinnen who led the team. **We are working on our Picnic for September 10th 2017. The team is in place and will be looking for the following volunteers; FOOD SERVERS, BINGO CALLERS, FACE PAINTERS, SET UP AND CLEAN UP CREW. Please call KRIS HOBSON-** (262) 883-4271
- **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 Heidi Konz and her daughter Mackenzie. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped at a craft station.
- **Women's Christmas Tea-** This past year marked the 10th Anniversary for this beautiful Women's event. A delicious catered lunch, uniquely decorated tables and Christmas entertainment, kicks off the holiday season with a bang! Thank you Sherry Sinnen(Leader), Kathy Sadowski, Chris Daugherty, Anne Fuller, Tanya Bihun, & Jessica Stevenson
We are now forming the planning team, if you are interested in a short term project and love to decorate and entertain! Julie Chase will be the leader for the Christmas Tea this year, please call the office if you would like to be on the Women's Christmas Tea Team!
- **Worship with Peder Eide-** Awesome Family workshop with Peder Eide leading worship at all services. A huge thank you to all the countless volunteers who worked on fundraising, set-up, and those who provided meals for Peder and the volunteers
- **Kenosha Expo-** The Kenosha Expo Health & Home Show is a family-friendly, fun and informative opportunity to meet the many businesses and organizations that make the Kenosha Area Chamber of Commerce such a strong association. This year Lord of Life had a booth. Thank you Rich Walasek for coordinating volunteers and setting up the Lord of Life booth.
- **Soup Suppers-** Soup suppers are a continued tradition that includes delicious soups every Wednesday during lent. 8-10 soups needed with 70-80 folks filling up the multipurpose room! Again, this year, each week was hosted by our ministries. Thank you to all the volunteers and a huge applaud to our confirmation kids that cleaned up. Lots of volunteered needed for this event, so many thanks to all!

- **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. A Special church service included the blessing of hands.
- **Women's Retreat-** This year's retreat was at Siena Retreat Center. The retreat took place in the spring and was themed "Lavender Springs Spa." Judith Tisserand was our session Leader. Thank you Retreat Team for your help!
Sonja Wolf, Lori Vogel, Charlene Clark, & Carol Gumbinger. **Save the date- April 13-14th 2018, will be our next Women's Retreat at Siena Retreat Center.**
- **Spiritual Gifts Challenge-** In April, as part of our Stewardship program, the connections Ministry passed out a new time and talent sheet (on welcome table) As we share our time and talent for God we also ask you to use your spiritual gifts, not only in this community but more importantly in your day to day life outside our doors. 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 4 funeral 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+)-** The Hi-Fivers continue to meet monthly for lunch, plays, or other activities. **Ministry need- looking for 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. In the past few months they have decided to start meeting for a bible study on the third Saturday. Please contact the Leader John Whyte if you would like to join them!
- **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 43 New Members to our family here at Lord of Life. 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. What a blessing!

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

Biographies of Council Nominees

David Houghton: I believe Lord of Life is a uniquely accepting church. It is a wonderful church home to so many families. It is important to maintain that spirit while managing its growth. My background as a licensed mental health and addiction counselor and CEO of a mental health agency have given me experiences that may help support the ministries at Lord of Life. I am married to Koreen and we have 5 children and 13 grandchildren. My hope for the future at Lord of Life is to grow the church while maintaining the welcoming and supportive spirit that makes Lord of Life such a wonderful church.

Lou Molitor: I have served two years on the Council, the most recent one as President. I feel that there is much more to accomplish and I hope to lend a hand and expertise towards this. My hope for the future at Lord of Life is a successful transition and search for a second pastor and paying off the mortgage.

Marie Persinger: I have been involved with the music ministries at Lord of Life for over 14 years. I was formerly the Adult Choir Accompanist, Special Music Coordinator, and I have also helped lead the Sunday School music program. I continue to serve as an accompanist for special music, keyboardist for funerals and weddings, and other Lord of Life events as needed. My hope for Lord of Life's future is continued growth and solid leadership in Southeast Wisconsin and the Greater Milwaukee Synod.

Sue Schmidt-Decker: It is exciting to see Lord of Life continue to grow when churches all over the Greater Milwaukee Synod are failing. We have always had something special here. I believe it is the focus on community that continued through 3 pastors and 2 interim pastors and I want to see that continue and expand. I have just completed 4 years on Synod Council and I have a better understanding of the wider church and the amazing things they are involved in and do outside of Kenosha, of Wisconsin, and of the United States.

I'm also committed to having Lord of Life becoming a Reconciling in Christ Church; openly stating we welcome LGBTQI individuals and showing this by how we serve. I think it's important to have a balance of old and young, male and female, new and long-time members to make sure all voices are heard at the table. I fit into that mix.

It's also exciting to be looking at adding a second pastor and I would like to be a part of that process by serving on Council. My hopes for the future at Lord of Life is to continue to grow in outreach and ministry outside of our doors, to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation, and to stay true to the ministry that began in 1984.

Rich Walasek: I want to help Lord of Life continue to prosper. I have organizational and leadership abilities from my years as a university professor and have served on Council at Lord of Life in the past. My hopes for the future at Lord of Life are moderate growth to support a second pastor, and to continue to be a welcoming, caring, flexible place.

John Whyte: I would like to serve on the Congregational Council because, like all of our Lord of Life members, I have a skill set to offer. The Bible says that we should share our gifts with others, and serving on the Council is one way to do that. If elected, I believe that I will be able to contribute a valuable perspective on each topic addressed by the Council. My hope for the future at Lord of Life is that we will continue to do the will of GOD, to the best of our abilities. Thanks, for your kind consideration of my candidacy!