

2016 Annual Report

Lord of Life Lutheran Church (ELCA)
6190 Fairview Road
Baxter, MN 56425-9374
www.lolbaxter.org

Annual Meeting
February 5, 2017



Celebrating 25 Years

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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2016 Lord of Life Church Council Members

President - Sarah Speer
Treasurer - Mary Anderson

Vice President - Paul Jacobsen
Secretary - Beth Hensel

Adult faith Growth - Tom Koop
Congregational Life - Patricia Huhta
Children's Education - Emilee Freed
Evangelism - Pam Braland
Finance - Darren Larson

Property - Rick zumBrunnen
Social Concerns - Pat Einarson
Stewardship - Darren Larson
Worship - Andy Holmes
Youth - Katy Kelm & Mike Shogren

Lord of Life Church Staff

Pastoral Staff

Senior Pastor: Steven Rye
Associate Pastor: Erika Nilsen

Office Staff

Ministry Operations Manager: Anne Laechel
Sr. Pastor's Ministry Asst: Colleen Bush
Spiritual Gifts Coordinator/Parish Nurse: Deb Bergstrom
Youth Ministry Assistant: formerly Tammie Benson and Lolly Kalinoski

Program and Support Staff

Custodian: Karen & Paul Erickson
Nursery Staff (volunteer): Mary Anderson
Pianist: Jennifer Person
Wednesday Musician Coordinator: Jennifer Person
Wednesday Band Accompanist: Jennifer Person
Sr. Choir Director: Sarah Aamot
Spiritual Gifts Coordinator: Formerly Wendy Adamson
Sunday Morning Coordinator: Formerly Wendy Adamson
Sunday Morning Contemporary Group Director: Jeff Johnson
Sunday Traditional Group Director: Jennifer Person
Teens Upstream Leader: Guy Kelm
Wedding Coordinator: Andrea Anderson
Youth Ministry Director: Formerly Michael Carmack



Pastor's Report - Steven J. Rye

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual report time is always a time when I look back in amazement at all that the Lord has done in our midst. Most of ministry is spent running from one sermon to the next hospital call to the next communion visit. It's good to take some time to look back at the span of a year and draw out the high points for reflection. It's also good to spend some time imagining what next year's accomplishments might be from this vantage point.

25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In the spring of this past year, we geared up for the celebration of 25 years of ministry at Lord of Life. It was truly awe inspiring to watch our entire congregation come together. Excitement built with the news that we would be able to welcome back all of the former pastors of Lord of Life. In the months leading up to the celebration, cookbooks were sold, artwork sprouted and grew throughout the sanctuary, special music arrangements were rehearsed, old band members were invited to return---all of which culminated in a wonderful, spirit-filled worship service. Many thanks to the hundreds and hundreds of hands that came together for this event. Many thanks to God for blessing us so.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

During the spring of the year, we also engaged in exploratory work on where to go next regarding the Capital Campaign. April marked the time when 3-year pledges from the previous campaign had run out. In the year prior, I began to sense a weariness about our next campaign. Lord of Life has held three back-to-back campaigns, each with diminishing returns. The thought of spending another \$30,000-60,000K on a consultant to raise funds for the Capital Campaign just didn't seem to be a good use of our money. Yet our mortgage balance is still right around \$1,000,000.

Our immediate plan has been to secure short, year-to-year pledges for the Capital Fund while we give it a rest. This does not mean that we will not be going back to a campaign, but hopefully we will engage in one that is either home-grown or has the benefit of a short hiatus before we dive back into a professionally driven campaign. Personally, I believe we have the wherewithal to do it ourselves but it will take many hands getting involved.

In the meanwhile, I'm glad to report that giving to the Capital Fund exceeded our Mortgage Payments by over \$1,400 and it's our decision to put that money towards the principal. This is the ****first time**** that we have ever applied gifts to the principal despite our stated intention to do so for over nine years. This is a tradition that I hope we'll be able to sustain in the years ahead.

YOUTH TRIP TO COLORADO

Probably the most memorable high point, literally and figuratively, would be the trip that our congregation's youth group took to Colorado this past year. I was privileged to accompany Michael Carmack and Tammie Benson and the rest of the Lord of Life youth group crew as we ventured forth from Baxter to Omaha and then on to Colorado. In Omaha we got to experience a ministry to the homeless population there. A ministry that doesn't just give handouts to the homeless, but has some fantastic and intensive programs walk with them and place them on a firm footing, in the hopes they might not fall back into homelessness.

From there we traveled on to Rainbow Trails in Colorado where multiple groups from Lord of Life backpacked in the Rocky Mountains. I'm thankful we were able to go. In the week prior, it looked as if a forest fire was going to make that part of the trip not possible for us. But because of a providential cancellation at a nearby camp in May--for just the week we needed---and because of that camp's inability to fill the cancellation for the week, we were able to go. It was truly an Alleluia moment.

It was a great privilege to get to know our youth more and experience with them the awe-inspiring world that God has created for us.

STAFF TRANSITIONS

Memories of the Colorado trip also carry a twinge of sadness. At the end of the trip Michael Carmack informed our group that his wife had taken a position at a church in Wisconsin, and that meant Michael- regretfully-needed to resign from his position here at Lord of Life. Thus began a time of transition for us that I perceive we're still very much in the middle of. Along with Michael, both Tammie Benson and Wendy Adamson also resigned this fall. I am immensely grateful for all the work that the two of them engaged in over their many years at Lord of Life.

As part of the staff transition, we've engaged in a shifting of responsibilities. We brought Colleen Bush out to the front office and she serves as the main communication coordinator. Anne Laechel moved to a center office and is tasked with database management, and overall operational support. We hired Lolly Kalinoski to serve as Pastor Erika's assistant, but she was unable to continue, due to ongoing health concerns.

I am very glad for the hard work and dedication that each of our former staff have given to the life and ministry of our congregation. I'm also grateful that folks like Guy Kelm have stepped into the breach and serve so faithfully.

CHURCH COMMUNITY BUILDING

Ever since I arrived at Lord of Life, one matter that has been abundantly clear is that we had an utterly inadequate online church management system. It was created primarily for the use of the Roman Catholic church and was chosen by Lord of Life because, quite frankly, it was inexpensive. If ever there was a time to use the adage: "You get what you pay for" -- it would be in relation to this software. It is my opinion that the system was primarily designed so that a Roman Catholic Diocese' could monitor the goings-on of congregations and the transfer of membership between one Roman Catholic parish and another could be accomplished with ease.

These same features made the system extremely rigid and unusable for our congregation. In the spring of this past year, we began a process of searching for a replacement. Much conversation and testing went into the decision. Having been stung by the previous choice, once we had it narrowed down to two, I even personally paid a visit to their home office in Colorado Springs -- to see the makers of Church Community Builder software -- to make sure that I was able to size up the operation.

After visiting the company, and trying out their software, I came to the conclusion that CCB will serve Lord of Life extremely well. It's being used in over 5,000 congregations throughout the country and is particularly well crafted to serve churches whose needs are similar to ours.

In particular, I'm proud of the huge leap forward we've been able to make in maintaining security over people's personal data. We've also improved our systems of care so that when a need for prayer, direct ministry, or the rallying of the community together takes place -- we are able to follow through without those needs "falling through the cracks" and current staff are able to work together efficiently and seamlessly on complicated matters. Both of these things are "behind the scenes" but are important in the lives of our congregation members.

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UPDATED CONSTITUTION 1.0 & 2.0

At our annual meeting, we will be voting on the updated Constitution and Bylaws that I'm calling 1.0. The first vote on this update took place at the annual meeting in June of last year. Since that vote, the ELCA has updated the model constitution at its assembly in August of 2016. We will soon have additional changes to make.

In addition, even as we presented Constitution & Bylaws 1.0, we knew we would need to update the Bylaws to reflect a long held desire to simplify the team structure...which is wieldy and cumbersome. More about that soon.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

In looking to the future, the largest and most pressing goal is to "right-size" the current staff. We have several hires that need to be made, chief among them is a Youth Director. I am concerned that in order to make the staff the right size, we are going to need to seek additional support from the congregation. The currently budgeted levels for our youth staff, for example, are inadequate. And we have need for someone to replace some of the functions that were previously handled by our Business Administrator. We are managing for now, but not at a sustainable level for the long-haul.

It is also my goal for us all to live into the Church Community Builder model of ministry more fully. This model seeks to give everyone the ability to become aware of ways in which they can be involved in the congregation, respond to needs they might not otherwise know about, and better communicate in this increasingly complicated and socially networked world we live in. As an added benefit, we can operate with a much lighter and leaner organization structure. As I told someone recently, it finally feels as if the "cement shoes" have been removed and I, along with the staff and congregation, have the possibility of running.

A FINAL THANKS

Finally, I want to say how immensely grateful I am that you have called me to be your Senior Pastor. I consider it an honor to work alongside and in partnership with Pastor Erika and the rest of the staff. There is a spirit and joy here that is infectious. Thank you for your support of this ministry.

God Bless!

Pastor Steve

Pastor Steve

Pastor's Report - Erika R. Nilsen

*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
Isaiah 43:1-3*

Dear friends,

Isaiah 43:1-3 are some of my favorite Bible verses. I share them every time I visit with a family about Baptism. I read them almost every time I stand with someone who is saying goodbye to a loved one at the time of death. I meditate on them when someone I love is going through a tough time. I hold on to them when the waters and rivers and flames of my own life seem overwhelming. I share them boldly in times of joy and in times of sorrow, in times of calm and in times of transition because they hold the very promise of God – Emmanuel – a God who is with us in and through it all and in whom we can trust and not be afraid.

2016 contained countless moments in individual lives (my own included), in the life and ministry of this church and in this country that felt overwhelming. Change will often do that to us. And yet God was and is faithful as always – continually calling us by name and holding onto us. Which is why I can be filled with hope as I look ahead to 2017 – a year undoubtedly filled with more change and more promise!

With the resignations of Youth Director Michael Carmack and Youth Ministry Assistant Tammie Benson – the overall youth ministry of Lord of Life faced significant changes in the fall of 2016. Thanks to the generosity and spirit-filled life of Guy Kelm, we have been able to continue to invite the youth of this congregation into a growing relationship with Jesus. Guy has been leading and will continue to lead, through the 2016/2017 school year, both Middle School Youth Group and Teens Upstream. We have also added 2 small groups to our high school ministry. And I'm so grateful for the countless parents who have stepped up to help feed, bless, support and the encourage the youth of this church!

I'm also deeply grateful for the willing and delightful heart of Layne Danielson! With his ability to step in - 7th and 8th grade confirmation has been able to move forward this year and together we continue to explore the stories of God at work through individuals and families in the Bible. What an interesting bunch of ancestors we have!!

There's lots more to say about 2016, but I'd rather look ahead. Later on in Isaiah 43 we hear this profound word, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" As we move into a new year – may our eyes be open to perceive what God is up to! May our ears be open to hear our names being called out and our lives being sent out as witnesses! May our hearts be open to the new things that God is doing in and through us and in and through others. And may we have no fear!

In peace,



Pastor Erika Nilsen

President's Report - Sarah Speer

Serving Each Other

Philippians 2:4 *Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

Our mission as a congregation is to inspire a deeper and richer connection to Christ, our community, and each other. Each day we live out this mission as a congregation and as individuals in the body of Christ. We share in fellowship, service, and outreach.

I have witnessed so many examples of selfless service in our church this past year – of folks looking beyond themselves and asking, “How can I help?” As we said farewell to Michael Carmack and Tammie Benson - key youth ministry staff-volunteers stepped forward with enthusiasm to lead and serve in our mission to help organize and inspire connections for our large population of youth.

We celebrated 25 years together as a congregation in the spring of 2016. It was no small feat to plan and carry out a service and celebration marking a major milestone in our life together. It was a devoted group who stepped up to plan and orchestrate the festivities.

Many hours are devoted in this church by individuals, groups, committees, teams, and staff to helping with everything from watering shrubs to working in the sound booth. I have been honored to serve among them helping to lead this congregation as your president these last two years. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this great team.

Let's continue to look outside ourselves for ways to serve each other and our community in Christ's name.

With much gratitude,



Sarah Speer

BLAST Reformation



Vice-President's Report - Paul Jacobsen

As we move into another year, I look back with thanks on all of the dedicated staff and volunteers who make it possible for Lord of Life to provide Christ's ministry to our community. With many staff changes, I am amazed at how hard the remaining staff have worked to keep the ministry moving. Even more amazing is all of the volunteers who, without any pay, show up weekly, sometimes daily, to help out wherever needed. To those staff and volunteers – thank you!

I also look back and continue to be grateful for the generosity of you, our members. Your financial generosity helped us finish the year comfortably in the black. But because some of our savings came from staff departures, we will continue to need your generosity to keep providing the ministries we are dedicated to provide, especially the all-important ministry to our future -- our youth.

Looking forward, we are taking steps to try to make the church run more efficiently. We are updating our constitution and bylaws, including changing our fiscal year to July 1- June 30, which will better align our budget with the church program year. We are undergoing a review of the Council and Team structure to discern if a smaller group can oversee the church, yet maintain the broad input that we enjoy from our current structure. We currently have a very top-heavy management structure: a six person Executive Committee, eleven Team heads on Council, along with scores of volunteers on each Team. It short, it takes thousands of volunteer hours to oversee the church operations. Can we accomplish the same with fewer people? Is it a better use of volunteers to use their time doing ministry instead? I ask for your input as we undergo this review.

Finally, please give Sarah Speer a thank you and a hug for her leadership as President and former Vice President and council member. Her patience, insight and communication skills have greatly impressed me and given me a model to follow, and I want her to know how much her leadership has been appreciated.



Paul Jacobsen



Love grows here

Ministry Team Reports **2016 Annual Report**

Adult Faith Growth Team

Team Members: Tom Koop (Director), Claire Rud, Sally Jacobsen

Major 2016 Activities:

- Connection time bible study continued - good participation
- Faith Encouragement Group met all 12 months of 2016
- Provided financial oversight for faith growth activities, including all dedicated accounts related to adult faith growth (small groups)
- Made contact during 2016 with all small group leaders to offer support and take feedback

Goal for 2017:

Encourage "birthing" of new small groups and provide coaching/nurturing to small group leaders (new groups as well as established small groups) throughout Lord of Life.

Children's Education Team

Team Members: Emilee Freed (Director), Kaarin Hanske, Christa Miller, Kate Porter, Becky White

Major 2016 Activities:

- Offered and supported Day Camp with Luther Crest Camp Counselors.
- Offered and supported Vacation Bible School for Little Lambs
- Rally Day with carnival activities
- Offered and supported Sunday School weekly from September-May
- Offered and supported Wednesday evening Family and Faith from September-May
- Facilitated quarterly Kids Assist in church
- Participated in Charlie Brown Christmas (kids choir)
- Offered BLAST multigenerational events celebrating; Advent, Lent, Baptism
- Supported Milestone Ministries

Events in 2017 will replicate those offered in 2016.

Congregational Life

Team Members: Robbi Berry, Vickie Borgstrom, Bobbie Fredstrom, Marcia Helmen, Pat Huhta (Director), Sharon Johnson, Mary O'Boyle, Suzanne Rye

Major 2016 Activities:

- June, July, August picnics
- Lenten Dinners
- Movies: Seeing God conversations after seeing a movie.
- Soup Kitchen in March
- Christmas Caroling
- Participation in New Members Class
- Assisted with Wednesday night suppers
- Lenten Meals

Goals for 2017:

- Progressive Dinner
- Outdoor service and picnic in June, July and August
- Continue with monthly movies
- Soup Kitchen in April
- Christmas Caroling
- Game Night
- Continue to assist with Wednesday night suppers
- Lenten Meals

Evangelism

Team Members: Mary Anderson, Deb Bergstrom, Pam Braland (Director), Wade Haapajoki

Finance

Team Members: Steve Jones, Darren Larson (Director), Mike Youngquist

Ex. Officio: Mary Anderson, Anne Laechel

Mission Support/Stewardship

Team Members: Ted Anderson, C. B. Bylander, Jeff Grunenwald, Roger Tietz, Jeannine zumBrunnen



SERVEcamp

Activity Report for Property Team

Team Members: Mark Beckerleg, Gerry Bergstrom, Verdell Bose, Jack Christofferson, Ron Hensel, Stan Kalinoski, Kelly Story, Doug Schultz, Joe VanDenBoom, Rick zumBrunnen (Director)

Major 2016 Activities:

- Installed new furnace for Commons and Fellowship Hall area.
- Burned brush pile at NW side of church
- Re-installed irrigation system at south side of church due to damage from Fairway Street work.
- Organized Spring work day on June 4th
- Installed new LED fixtures in Narthex
- Formed a site maintenance sub-committee for watering landscaping
- Scheduled volunteers for mowing grass
- Installed LED bulbs in 6 original flood light fixtures in Commons
- Removed moss from north walls of building
- Repaired woodpecker damage to stucco walls
- Installed new LED light fixture on parking lot light pole at front of the church
- Assisted with Eagle Scout Project – Prayer Path
- Painted wood storage shed and repaired doors
- Organized Fall work day on Oct. 29th

Goals for 2017:

- Schedule a late-winter work day to remove fallen trees
- Replace exterior incandescent soffit lighting with LED lamps on south side of church
- Schedule Spring and Fall work days
- Relocate sprinkler heads on Fairview Road
- Add additional irrigation to SW corner of church property
- Install LED light fixtures in classroom/office hallway

Other Comments:

- Plan to develop more youth involvement in our work days and property maintenance
- Plan to continue to schedule energy saving projects as recommended in the Crow Wing Energy Audit Report
- New Team Member: Mark Beckerleg



Social Concerns

Team Members: Pat Einarson, Denise Laber, Ann Smallman (Director), Elaine Youngquist

Major 2016 Activities:

- Monetary donations for local and national efforts that promote hunger relief, health, poverty relief, safety, and environmental health concerns included:
 - \$ 582.25 March Food Share
 - \$ 100.00 Hole sponsorship for Bridges of Hope Golf fundraiser
 - \$ 300.00 Good Samaritan Bowl team Sponsorship
 - \$1,800.00 ELCA World Hunger 2016
 - \$ 50.00 Operation Sandwich
 - \$2,390.00 PV for Phebe Solar Project
 - \$ 100.00 RadioThon to End Child Abuse
 - \$ 250.00 Port Group Homes
 - \$ 100.00 Operation Sandwich – holiday break
 - \$ 225.00 Heartland Conference
 - \$6,708.38 ELCA World Hunger
- Total Donations of \$12,605.63**
- Blood Drive coordinated by Sally Jacobson. February 26, 2016 Blood Drive: 33 donors donated 28 units of blood; July 12, 2016: Blood Drive: 30 donors donating 27 units.
 - The team conducted March Food Drive in which the congregation generously donated 275 lbs of food and \$282.25 in cash donation with \$300.00 in Thrivent Choice matching funds for a total donation of \$582.25 to local food shelves.
 - Sponsored a donations drive for PV for Phebe hospital in Liberia. BJ Allen of RREAL was guest speaker at July 31st service; developed and circulated a calendar of donation ideas based on energy use awareness, held Table Talk in narthex with information and other options to donate to raise funds for PV for Phebe effort.
 - Working with Bridges of Hope, thirteen families in the community were provided the food to prepare a full Thanksgiving dinner due to the generous donation of \$268.00 and food donations.
 - The committee arranged for participation in the Salvation Army sponsored Angel Tree project in December in which gifts from congregational members were given to 13 families with children in the community. Additionally, many gift cards were donated that may provide some support for needs that arise throughout the year among congregational members. New in 2016 was the addition of gift tags for seniors in the community. 12 senior tags were offered and gifts were provided for all by congregants.
 - Fair Trade Coffee program was retired in 2016 with a “clearance” sale of remaining coffee.

Goals for 2017

- We would like to increase membership of our committee to bring in more helping hands, ideas and inspiration. Will leverage Deb Bergstrom and the CCB system to find volunteers for specific activities (Thanksgiving baskets, Angel Tree, etc.).
- Continuation of our primary projects and finding creative ways to advertise and inspire increased volunteer participation in our community service efforts.
- The team would like to explore the idea of how to greater partner with current efforts such as blood drive, parish nurse, crop walks, etc. to expand on efforts focused on the health of the congregation through attention to health and fitness.

Other Comments: Looking forward to congregational participation for project and possible new members!

Worship Team

Team Members: Wendy Adamson, Karen Erickson, Beth Hensel, Andy Holmes (Director), Jane Peterson, Patty Wallace.

2016 has been a beautiful year at Lord of Life. Worship team supports the activities of all of the groups that present the services at our lovely church. Our music, as usual, has been excellent. Our sanctuary has been cared for lovingly by all, and especially by our team members. We have also had assistance from long time friends of this team: Sandy Bergstrom Judy Bialka and Kari Campion.

Worship team attempts to enhance the service in any way possible, from flowers, to the Christmas tree and wreaths, to attention to banners and candles. The team places stations around the church at various times in the church year to make the message of the service manifest in our surroundings.

Our volunteer coordinator position has changed hands from Wendy Adamson to Deb Bergstrom. The position has changed with regard to worship. There is an effort to make volunteer staffing for worship services evolve into a much more automatic function. Our new software will help us to build the groups of ushers, greeters, communion servers and readers that it takes to make our services flow smoothly.

As chair of this team I have been fortunate to see many new people take part. I have never forgotten the impact of performing each of the functions of worship team for the first time. If you have an interest in membership, or in the functions of our volunteers sign on, join us, celebrate.

Youth Team

Team Members: Katy Kelm (Director), Jessica Balsley, Helene Danielson, Layne Danielson, Megan Hensel, Darcy Walkowiak, Jason Walkowiak

Major 2016 Activities:

- ServeCAMP for 26 middle school students
- Summer Stretch for 18 teens
- Middle School Youth Group met weekly
- Teens Upstream (Senior High Youth Group) met weekly
- Boundary Waters Canoe Trip for 13 teens
- Colorado Backpacking Trip for 42 teens
- Warrior Day of Service
- Middle School Youth Gathering
- Charlie Brown Christmas performances
- Small group faith opportunities
- Confirmation for grades 7-10 for approximately 120 students
- Supported 1st Communion class for 25 fifth graders
- Senior Recognition for 33 high school graduates

Events Planned for 2017:

- ServeCAMP
- Summer Stretch
- Continue Middle School and Teens Upstream youth groups
- Continued Confirmation classes for grade 7-10
- Mission trip to Chicago

We have been blessed with a full-time youth ministry position and look forward to filling that position this year and continuing to grow ministry opportunities for our youth and their families.

Parish Nurse

In March of 2015, I started my journey as Parish Nurse. The Lord of Life church staff and family have been so gracious in welcoming me to this position! Parish Nursing is a recognized speciality practice that combines professional nursing and health ministry and recognizes a Wholistic approach to healing.

Below are some of the programs I have been involved in:

- Blood Pressure Screening
- Home and hospital visits
- Summer walking program
- Church Community Builder
- Men's health information
- Matter of Balance and Healthy Lifestyle Classes through CrowWing Energized
- Monthly Newsletter Article
- Informational talks
- Attitude of Gratitude and Resiliency information
- Exploring a health and wellness council

I began working 15 hours a week in October of 2016, sharing my time between Parish Nursing and the Spiritual Gifts Coordinator.

I would like to thank Pastor Steve, Pastor Erika, Anne and Colleen for all their support and for being so welcoming to a new staff person. 2017 looks to be a year of new ideas, events and getting to know the congregation better.

God's blessing to you all!

Deb Bergstrom

Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA at Lord of Life were involved in various activities in 2016.

- Hosted the Heartland Conference Fall Gathering brunch on Saturday, October 22, ninety women attended.
- Held monthly Bible study, using ELCA *Gather* magazine, Sarah Circle meeting at the church on Tuesday at 1:00pm and Martha Circle meeting in homes on Tuesdays at 7:00pm
- Donated 18 school kits to Lutheran World Relief
- Quilters donated quilts for all the graduating seniors, Luther Crest, Kinship, Safe Harbor, Brighter Days Foundation, Camp Knutson, Camp Confidence, Lutheran Social Service, NE ELCA Synod, FFA, and Veterans Administration.
- Pray and Ponder meet monthly on Saturday morning for brunch, fellowship, and message left by Wendy Adamson. Collected \$1,005 for the PV for Phebe Solar Project in Liberia, Africa.
- Looking forward to Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis, July 13-16, 2017

Sally T. Jacobsen

Member Milestones

Baptisms

Jan 3	Emery Sue Vandenberg, daughter of Jacob & Valerie Vandenberg
Jan 24	Ava Erin Grams, daughter of Trent & Jennifer Grams
Mar 13	Olivia Joy Cleland, daughter of Kevin & Samantha Cleland
Apr 24	Cole William Kunesh, son of Alex & Ashley Kunesh
May 8	Declan Dean Davick, son of Larson & Julia Davick
Jun 5	Olive Malone Barrer, daughter of Tim & Jenny Barrer
Jun 5	Everett David Malchow, son of David & Michelle Malchow
Jun 12	Ledger John Janey, son of Adam Janey & Leigha Sanow
Jun 26	Addison Marie Selisker, daughter of Bryan & Mandy Selisker
Jul 10	Tyler James Toensing, son of Michael Toensing & Jill Kinsley
Aug 28	Valarie Rose Fuchs, daughter of Jeremy & Sheelar Fuchs
Aug 28	Jada Simone Fuchs, daughter of Jeremy & Sheelar Fuchs
Sept 25	Zaylee Rose Massie, daughter of Jazmin Massie
Oct 23	Logan James Vinge, son of Connor Vinge & Amber Richter
Oct 2	Grace Jennifer Kulzer, daughter of Michael & Michelle Kulzer
Oct 2	Marie Leigh Kulzer, daughter of Michael & Michelle Kulzer
Oct. 30	Emmett David Bartelt, son of Adam & Heidi Bartelt
Oct. 30	Kaleb Jeremy Pape, son of Jeremy & Melissa Pape
Dec. 18	Korbin Wyatt Christenson, son of Mikael & Lacey Christenson

Marriages

Jun 18	Alyssa Marlatt & Anders Silverness
Jun 25	Nicole Binggeli & Ryan Pahl
Jul 23	Amanda Kozitza & David Zaddock
Jul 30	Annah Rueger & Luke Swanson
Aug 13	Kayelee Gill & Jack Freeman
Aug 13	Whitney Markman & J. Scott Harrison
Sep 24	Katie Bensen & Nate Uecker
Sep 24	Becky Johnson & Kevin Bocklund
Oct 8	Tammy Dewey & Bob Stellmach
Oct 15	Amy Kossan & Steven DeMars
Dec 17	Christine Wegen & James Cox

Deaths

Feb 19	Don Eschenbacher
Mar 9	Brian Spreeman
Mar 31	Reuben Lehtola

New Members Received in 2016

November 16 & 20

Colleen & Mike Bush	Becky Clark-Randall
Eric Ding	Alex Getty
Bill Fortune	Katie Kraemer
Mason Kruse	Deanne Joy
ReNee Leonard	Zachary Olds
Julie Olson	Patricia Saxum
Terri Saxum	Libby Zemke
Barbara Schlick-Coffman	

Outgoing Transfers

Kara & Larry Gordon
Pauline Tischman

Membership Summary		
	Baptized	Confirmed
12/31/2015	1375	1033
Received During 2016	48	15
Member Youth Confirmed		16
Removed During 2016	6	6
12/31/2016	1417	1058

Member Milestones

Sophomore Confirmation

Kayla Michelle Blong
 Wyatt Remington Bunting
 Kaysie Hesebeck Carlson
 David Douglas Dewey
 Calvin James Foss
 Mikaela Jeanine Kadolph
 Benjamin Gary Krall
 Ethan John Marichalar
 Jenna Lee Meyer
 Libby Christine Zemke

Sayali Anna Mae Blowers
 Katie Lee Campbell
 Renzen Kidd Caughey
 Austin Jaymes Erickson
 Joshua James Hukriede
 Morgan Kathleen Kohout
 Mason Daniel Kruse
 Ryan Steven Mau
 Zachary Theodore Olds



First Communion



Josh Albright
 Emily Bastian
 Dillon Cordes
 Hannah Drietz
 Emily Ehlert
 Gavin Hoelzel
 Kristoffer Koop
 Brody Lund
 Sam Mattson
 Cally Robertson
 Anna Tupy

Emma Balsley
 Isabella Bennett
 Keegan Davidge
 Alexandria Dwyer
 Christopher Gratke
 Chase Koop
 Drew Larson
 Sophia Mattson
 Gretchen Paysse
 Tyler Stoen
 Keaton Walkowiak

Statement of Activities
2016 Annual Meeting Report
 December 2016

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Next Year Annual Budget</u>
Income			
Offerings Totals:	463,292.42	608,540.00	476,300.00
Capital Campaign Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rent Totals:	4,256.00	2,710.00	4,000.00
Other Income Totals:	5,664.10	1,862.00	0.00
Interest Write-Offs Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00
Congregational Life Team Totals:	3,592.20	3,400.00	3,200.00
Income Totals:	<u>478,004.72</u>	<u>516,421.00</u>	<u>484,000.00</u>
Expense			
Pastoral Ministry - Personnel Totals:	192,451.55	193,607.00	196,618.19
Lay Ministries - Personnel Totals:	157,945.50	192,002.00	152,400.09
Church Operations Totals:	25,317.78	22,634.00	28,264.00
Mission Support Team Totals:	1,542.47	2,300.00	1,670.00
Congregational Benevolence Totals:	24,927.33	27,469.00	27,469.00
Evangelism Team Totals:	2,411.27	3,100.00	2,900.00
Congregational Life Team Totals:	4,398.55	5,100.00	3,800.00
Children's Education Team Totals:	1,595.91	2,400.00	3,450.00
Adult Faith Growth Team Totals:	50.00	250.00	250.00
Worship Team Totals:	3,900.00	3,550.00	4,770.00
Youth Team Totals:	2,766.39	3,690.00	4,900.00
Property Team Totals:	42,406.48	56,350.00	54,330.00
Expense Totals:	<u>459,801.89</u>	<u>512,532.00</u>	<u>480,825.08</u>
Income - Expense:	<u>18,202.83</u>	<u>3,889.00</u>	<u>3,174.92</u>

Respectfully Submitted
Mary Anderson, Treasurer
January 15, 2017

Statement of Financial Position
Annual Meeting
December 2016

	<u>Year to Date Balance</u>
Assets	
Checking Account Totals:	118,806.23
Cash Totals:	133.78
Land and Building Totals:	2,941,557.70
Equity Totals:	0.00
Total Assets:	<u><u>3,060,586.71</u></u>
Liabilities	
Payroll Withholdings Totals:	2,864.82
Accounts Payable Totals:	0.00
Mortgage Totals:	939,050.55
Total Liabilities:	<u>941,715.37</u>
Net Assets	
Equity Totals:	1,970,324.13
Unrestricted	112,385.80
Temporarily Restricted	17,978.58
Permanently Restricted	0.00
Dedicated Accounts Totals:	<u>130,344.36</u>
Current Period Changes to Net Assets	18,202.83
Total Net Assets:	<u>2,118,871.34</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets:	<u><u>3,060,586.71</u></u>

Respectfully Submitted
Mary Anderson, Treasurer
January 15, 2017

Lord of Life Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting February 7, 2016

Meeting called to order at 11:45 a.m. by Council President Sarah Speer.

Pastor Steven J. Rye led opening devotions.

Vice-President Paul Jacobsen certified that a quorum of voting members was present

Approval of Agenda - Motion by Andrea Holmes, second by Bugs Schmidt to approve the agenda for the 2016 Congregational Meeting. Motion carried.

Approval of February 1, 2015 Congregational Meeting Minutes - Motion by Sonja Nefstead, second by Vickie Borgstrom. Motion Carried.

Approval of 2015 Annual Report - Motion by Gary Engelmann, second by Pat Huhta. Motion carried.

Presentation of 2016 proposed budget - Discussion led by President Sarah Speer
Motion by Sue Beck, second by Mel Nefstead to approve the budget as presented

Nominating Committee Report - Motion to elect nominated Officers, Council & Team Members, Synod Assembly Voting Members and 2016 Nominating Committee, and grant council authority to approve late additions. Motion by Paul Jacobsen, second by Mary Anderson. Motion carried.

Discussion of how to proceed with upcoming Capital Campaign. Mel Nefstead, Val Jones, Paul Jacobsen, Gary Engelmann, Andrea Holmes, Pastor Steven J. Rye all spoke on this subject.

Recognition of, and thank you to, out-going members of the Church Council and Ministry Teams

Motion by Pastor Steven J. Rye to adjourn, second by Paul Jacobsen. All approved.

Closing prayer by Pastor Erika Nilsen.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting June 26, 2016

Meeting called to order at 10:45 a.m. by Council President Sarah Speer.

Pastor Erika R. Nilsen led opening devotions.

Vice-President Paul Jacobsen certified that a quorum of voting members was present

Regarding the Constitution: Effective March 1, 2017, the Constitution of Lord of Life Lutheran Church of Baxter shall be amended to read as set forth in the attached revisions listed below:

Today at the Congregational Meeting we will be voting on amending our Constitution. A “lined” version of our Constitution is available, showing the substantive changes from the ELCA’s current model constitution. This version also shows Lord of Life’s current bylaws, with suggested changes. The bylaws are indented and have three numbers (e.g. 10.01.01) instead of two (10.01) to distinguish them from the Constitutional provisions. Also available is a “clean” version of the new proposed Constitution. Our current Constitution requires amendments to be approved at two Congregational meetings, while the Bylaws only require one meeting. So, we will vote only on the Constitution changes today, and will vote again on the Constitution, along with the new Bylaws, at our next annual meeting in February, 2017.

Many changes are not shown in the lined version as they were not substantive (for example, filling in blanks for the name of our congregation or our synod). The following are the significant changes in the Constitution and Bylaws:

- In section 10.03 and the Bylaws, allows for email notice for all Council and Congregational meetings.
- In section 10.04, for a quorum at a Congregational Meeting, requires 10% of average worship attendance (around 350 currently, so 35), instead of 20 under the current Constitution.
- In section 10.05, allows attendance by electronic means at a Congregational Meeting if allowed by the President.
- In section 11.01, in the Bylaws (11.01.01(c)), further defines the duties of the Treasurer, especially regarding dedicated funds.
- In section 11.02, allows for voice votes at Congregational meetings and for elections, but requires a secret written ballot if requested by a member.
- Under section 12.01, in the Bylaws, adds a youth-at-large position to Council for one-year terms. The youth would be a full voting member, but would not be on any particular Team, nor be a Team leader. The ELCA’s model constitution had optional language to encourage youth membership on the council, but this wouldn’t work well with our Team structure. Our solution was to add a youth member as an at-large member so that we have a youth perspective when making decisions.
- Under section 12.04, in the Bylaws, requires Teams to have a minimum of 3 members, but no maximum.

February 7, 2017 Meeting minutes cont...

In section 12.05(c), allows Council increasing spending to more than 2% (about \$10,000 now) over the budgeted income only upon Congregational approval (the current constitution restricted any contracts over \$2000 without Congregational approval). An exception is dedicated funds raised through special fundraising (for example, youth fundraising or the fundraising for a new furnace last year). The new Bylaws also allow reallocating budgeted ¥ fundraising for a new furnace last year). The new Bylaws also allow reallocating budgeted amounts so long as the reallocation does not exceed 5% of the annual budget (about \$25,000 now) and does not increase overall spending.

- Under section 12.08, the new Bylaws allow the Senior Pastor to supervise staff and accept resignations, if approved by Council (that authority now lies only with Council).
- Under section 13.03, in the Bylaws, allows for Council to change the fiscal year from a calendar year to a different fiscal year (e.g. July 1-June 30). Given the approval process of the Constitution, the earliest this could be accomplished will be during 2017.

Motioned by Ann Smallman, Motion Second by Nancy Smith. All Approved. Motion carried.

Easement: In addition, we will ask the Congregation to sell an easement expansion to the City of Baxter for the Fairview Road widening. The following motion will be presented: In consideration of payment of \$1900 from the City of Baxter, Lord of Life Lutheran Church of Baxter grants the City of Baxter an easement extension along Fairview Drive as set forth in the attached easement, and grants officers of such church the authority to execute and deliver such easement to the City of Baxter. Motioned by Hawk Hawkinson, Motion Second by Andy Holmes. All Approved. Motion carried.

Motion by Anne Laechel to adjourn, second by Pat Huhta. All approved. Motion carried

Closing prayer by Pastor Erika R. Nilsen.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Beth Hensel



**LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATION MEETING
Sunday, February 5, 2017 - 11:45 a.m.**

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Opening prayer
3. Certification of quorum (20 voting members required)
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Minutes of February 7, 2016 Congregation Meeting and June 26, 2016
 - Motion to accept, discussion and approval
6. Presentation and Discussion of Annual Reports
 - Pastors' Reports
 - President's Report
 - 2016 Consolidated Statement of Activities and Financial Position
 - Ministry Team Reports
 - Parish Nurse Report
 - Motion to accept, discussion and approval
7. Presentation of 2017 Budget
 - Motion to adopt, discussion and approval
8. Nominating Committee Report
 - Motion to elected nominated Officers, Council & Team Members, Synod Assembly
 - Voting Members and 2017 Nominating Committee
 - Discussion and approval
9. Recognition of retiring Officers, Council & Team Members, Synod Assembly Voting Members and 2016 Nominating Committee.
10. Adopting revised Constitution and Bylaws for the Congregation.
11. Other business
12. Motion to Adjourn
13. Closing Prayer