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Faith Lutheran Church Annual Ministry Gathering Agenda

January 28, 2018

Our mission statement: To be stewards of God's abundance by living in relationship with God through Christ and each other, extending ourselves and our blessings to the world.

- I. Welcome—President Deb Hornell
- II. Call to order—Deb Hornell
- III. Opening prayer—Pr. Wende West
- IV. Adoption of the agenda
- V. Approval of the minutes from annual meeting January, 2016
- VI. Reflections and report—2017 review and transition update—Deb Hornell and Pr. West
- VII. Finance report and 2018 budget
- VIII. New business
 - a. Constitution
- IX. Elections

The following people have been placed on the ballot by the Nominating Committee and have accepted nominations:

President—Deb Hornell—Council recommends that she be on the ballot for a third term as per the proposed Constitution.
Secretary—Chris Bettin—1st Term
Family Ministry—Beth Sekera-1st Term
Debbie O'Connor—At Large/ Service—2nd term
Jane Stroh—At Large/Communication—2nd term
Ted Flores—At Large/Administration 2nd term

The following individuals are currently serving terms and are not up for re-election:
Jim Hall - Treasurer
Lenore Klausner - Worship
Rob Herbold - Witness/Stewardship
Ron Gustaferrri - Administration/Property

Endowment Committee: Continuing 1st term
Nancy Crawford
Tim Hohulin
Tom Holz

X. Recognition of retiring Council members:
Craig Warner-Family Ministry
Lois Bates-Council Secretary

XI. Adjournment

XII. Closing Prayer—Pr. Joe Yucha

Synod Delegates: 1st term, appointed by Council
Robert Dahl
Susan Dahl
Lois Bates
Joanne O'Toole

Scholarship Committee—Laura Yudys

Nominating Committee:
Kathy Zima—1st term
Lenore Klausner—continuing 2nd term
Rob Herbold—continuing 2nd term
Jim O'Connor—continuing 2nd term

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting

January 22, 2017

Welcome and Call to Order

The 2017 annual meeting at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church in Glen Ellyn was attended by 195 people. The meeting was called to order by Deb Hornell at 10:00 a.m. Deb Hornell, Congregational President, gave a special thank you and acknowledgement to Faith staff for their willingness to be flexible and helpful in working with a new time/agenda for this year's annual meeting. She also gave a warm welcome to FLY and Confirmation attendees.

Adoption of the Agenda

President Hornell introduced the 2017 agenda, requested amendments, and asked for a motion to approve. A motion was made by Sandy Becker and seconded by Steve Becker to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from Prior Year's Annual Meeting

President Hornell then asked for comments/amendments to the annual meeting held on Sunday, January 24, 2016. Hearing none, a motion was made by Richard Mueller to approve and seconded by Tom Wendorf. The motion was carried to adopt the minutes as presented.

Devotion and Prayer

Pastor Jim Honig led the congregation in prayer.

Congregational President Report

President Hornell reviewed the 2017 agenda format and acknowledged council members dispersed and sitting at various tables.

President Hornell reviewed the 3 phases of Faith's Year of Discernment:

Phase I: Awareness

Phase II: Holy Disruption

Phase III: Application

Faith's mission statement was reviewed and put into context with how Faith may wish to go forward both internally and externally.

President Hornell introduced the Discernment team members and introduced the 4 major themes that were most emphasized with input from the congregation's feedback and discernment:

Worship**Community Partnership****Faith Formation****Staffing****Bible Study & Congregational Activity**

Ephesians 4: 11-13 - And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Attendees engaged in a lively table discussion of this bible verse along with the question, "How can this church help you fulfill God's word in your world(s)?"

Attendees were then invited to sign up for involvement and support in the following areas: Worship, Community Partnership, Faith Formation Staffing, 70th Anniversary of FLC, 500th Anniversary of Reformation, Other. Those interested will be contacted for future participation and engagement.

Finance report of 2016 Results and 2017 Budget Proposal

Greg Johnson reviewed actual versus budget results for 2016. Greg fielded questions regarding the year-end position including an explanation of lower envelope giving when Christmas falls on a Sunday versus a weekday and the decision by Council to expense Pastor Bird's salary and accrue the savings to a future staffing account.

In a review of 2017 proposed budget, Greg reviewed the assumptions used to develop the high level line items. These items include regular envelope giving, cost of living increase, benefits, utilities, and benevolence contributions. Greg answered questions from attendees relating to building maintenance, social security, synod assumptions for cost of living and benefits, confirmation, FLY, and Stepping Stone budgets, and current # of pledges received to date. Of special interest and discussion was in the area of funding a 1st call associate pastor.

Rob Herbold was invited to present an overview of 2017 Stewardship campaign results and provide additional context around the 1st call associate pastor line item in the 2017 budget. Rob thanked the congregation for their pledges and reminded everyone that outstanding pledges will be gratefully accepted.

Rob explained that the 1st call associate pastor is a 2-3 year financial commitment. He highlighted the 2017 budget and clarified that it only covers a portion of what needs to be funded for a complete contract agreement. To that end, Rob highlighted that an approval of the 1st call associate pastor will result in an additional stewardship campaign for the remaining years of the call. This is necessary to supplement the expense of future years for the 1st call pastor.

A motion was made by Carl Henninger to adopt the 2017 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Larry Johnson. Motion carried and budget adopted.

Election ballots were collected and the following members were elected:

Deb Hornell – 2nd term President

Jim Hall – 1st term Treasurer

Ron Guastaferrri – 1st term Property

Deb Hornell recognized and thanked outgoing council members Hugh Johnson and Greg Johnson for their generous gift of time and talents. Deb also acknowledged and thanked Todd Carrico for providing music in the sanctuary for the children after Sunday School so parents could come to the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. and closed with a prayer by Pastor Jim.

REPORT OF THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Lois Bates, Congregational Council Secretary

A church is defined in two ways. It is a physical structure that needs cleaning, maintenance when things break or outlive their usefulness, bills need to be paid, contracts renewed and insurance provided in case of damage and for its employees. It is also a place to worship, rejoice, cry and live in community with others. It is the role of the church council to balance these parts. Often the council is criticized for working like a business. The council works like a business because there are business matters that need constant attention. We also move out into the community and look for ways to extend the love that Christ has shown to us. It is not an easy balance to maintain at times.

I have served on Faith's Council as secretary for the past four years. This will be my last year. I will miss it. Working with others in our congregation has been a delight and very rewarding. Some individuals I have known for several years and some are new to me. All have shown a love for Faith Church and the larger church that is reflected in their work. Faith without works is dead.

2017-2018 provided many challenges and changes for us. A year of transition, the call for new Pastor, maintaining a budget that allows us to provide for the physical structure as well as serving our community. There will be more challenges as we continue to evolve. To quote Martin Luther, "I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."

I look forward to meeting new Council members and seeing how they will become part of the tapestry that is Faith.

Lois Bates

Faith Church Council Secretary

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Deb Hornell, Council President

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13

These verses set the tone for our January 2017 annual meeting, serving as a bridge from a Year of Discernment to a Year of Action. After highlighting four themes from our Discernment conversations--Worship, Community Partnerships, Faith Formation, and Staffing, the 195 members present were asked to determine where they felt called to serve in 2017. We were able to draw on these lists throughout the year in forming new teams or strengthening existing teams and programs.

2017 quickly evolved into a year of transition for Faith, as we said goodbye to Pastor Jim Honig and welcomed Pastor Wende West as our Interim Senior Pastor and also welcomed Pastor Joe Yucha as our First Call Associate Pastor. As we move through this interim period between pastors, there seems to be a renewed sense of ministry, of community and connection, and positive energy throughout our church - in worship and in our many ministries.

Faith is a strong church, with a rich history and a bright future. Our strength is evident through the work of our people:

- The Worship teams who enrich our worship services: musicians, altar guild, ushers, acolytes, ambassadors, and communion deacons
- The Service teams who support various ministries in our community, including PADS, Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, People's Resource Center, Walk-in Ministry, ESSE, Teen Parent Connection, ESL, and DuPage United
- Teachers and guides who facilitate faith formation through Sunday School, Rainbow Place, Confirmation, Youth Ministry and Bible Studies
- Staffing Ministry Action Team members who interviewed Pastor Joe, updated Faith's Constitution, and updated staff job descriptions and policies
- Mutual Ministers for their ongoing supporting of our staff, especially during this interim period
- The Endowment Committee for identifying local ministries to receive grants from our Endowment Fund
- New teams forming to strengthen communication efforts and landscape needs
- The Property teams who care for and maintain our building and property
- The Pastors and Pastoral care teams who supported members and their families through illness or death this year
- The Women of Faith for organizing many post-funeral gatherings
- Those who planned and carried out multiple celebrations: Pastor Jim and Sheryl's farewell; Pastor Joe's ordination; Intern David Petersen's farewell; Faith's 70th anniversary and the 500th anniversary of the Reformation
- The transition team who worked with Pastor Wende to complete a Ministry Site Profile which will be used in the call process for a new senior pastor.
- Our church staff for their continuing dedication and love for Faith--Pastor Wende West, Pastor Joe Yucha, Deacon Pam Voves, Todd Carrico, Jen Bradbury, Eileen Glynn, Sally Stauber, Eric Enskat, and Rich Zima.
- Our exceptional Church Council for their faithful leadership and for graciously giving so much of their time to support transition activities this year: Secretary-Lois Bates; Treasurer-Jim Hall; Worship-Lenore Klausner; Stewardship-Rob Herbold; Service-Debbie O'Conner; Faith Formation-Craig Warner; Administration-Ted Flores; Communication-Jane Stroh; Property-Ron Guastaferrri. We thank Lois and Craig for their service as they leave Council.

In 2018, Faith will experience additional transition as we move into our next chapter.

Together, we are strong. #FaithStrong

Together, we fulfill our mission:

*To be **stewards** of God's abundance by living in relationship with God through Christ and with each other, extending ourselves and our blessings to the world*

Deb Hornell,
Council President

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing.

Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43: 18-19

As I write this annual report we are in the midst of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation. As a congregation, you are also in this place of waiting, not knowing what might be next. In serving as your interim pastor I like to describe this time of transition as 'liminal space.'

The word *liminal* comes from the Latin word *limen*, meaning threshold—any point or place of entering or beginning. A liminal space is the time between the 'what was' and the 'next.' It is a place of transition, waiting, and not knowing. These thresholds of waiting and not knowing our 'next' are everywhere in life and they are inevitable. Each ushers in a new chapter of life... holding various degrees of disruption and joy.

Liminal space is where all transformation takes place, if we learn to wait and let it form us. I might add, you are doing this quite well!

During this liminal time the council has been hard at work, as you bid Godspeed farewell to Pastor Jim Honig and welcomed Pastor Joe Yucha. And all the while keeping many, many ministries running smoothly. This is no small feat!

The last week in March I began my time of ministry with you. It has been a joy and a privilege and of course, has provided some challenges.

Since July I have met with the transition team monthly, as they have gathered information and feedback for Faith's congregational biography, a set of papers known as the Ministry Site Profile. (See their report) This is one part of the whole process of calling a new pastor. At the same time the council is in the process of clarifying organizational elements that need to be defined and aligned—from job descriptions to finances to values and mission. It is the hope and prayer that a call committee will gather to do the next phase in the spring.

I walked with intern David Petersen as he finished his year with you in August. It has been a delight to share ministry with newly ordained Pastor Joe. We have been a good team together—preaching, teaching, and presiding at funerals, weddings and baptisms. In September it was fun to celebrate 70 years of Faith's faithfulness! In October we rejoiced in the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. How wonderful to be a church where we recognize that change and transition is part of our calling as Lutheran Christians.

I am grateful for Faith's devoted program and office staff who have patiently taught me the many intricacies of how everything works. A grateful shout out as well, to the hard working and dedicated volunteers, that keep Faith running smoothly with vitality.

Allow me to finish in the words of Richard Rohr, author and theologian, who describes this liminal space:

"...where we are betwixt and between the familiar and the completely unknown. A place where we are not yet sure of the new existence. That's a good space where genuine newness can begin. Get there often and stay as long as you can by whatever means possible... This is the sacred space where the old world is able to fall apart, and a bigger world is revealed. If we don't encounter liminal space in our lives, we start idealizing normalcy. The threshold is God's waiting room. Here we are taught openness and patience as we come to expect an encounter with the Divine."

Allow this newness of God to ripple through our community and spirituality, vocations and relationships, as they intersect and intertwine. Thank you all for the privilege of walking with you in this journey. You are a caring community being the Body of Christ for our world.

Pastor Wendé

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.
Jeremiah 29:11

At this point last year I thought the door to my time at Faith was closed and I could not imagine that I'd be here with you at the start of a new calendar year. Yet here we are! And I could not be more blessed to be here.

As I look back over my nine months here I can barely fathom how much we've been through together. From the joys of celebrating 12 baptisms, to the many tears we've shed together at too many funerals, and everything in between, we have come a long ways this year. It's been an honor and a privilege to begin my ministry here among a group of people who care so deeply about their faith and this place. I will highlight here a broad overview of what I've been involved in since I've returned to Faith.

Worship

From my first "official" day here on Good Friday, through the long "time after Pentecost" season over the summer, worship has been the heart of my life at Faith. Through this year we have gone from three to two services, allowed worship servants to worship with their families, and had an opportunity to explore all that goes into our Sunday morning services. Weekly planning meetings with Pastor Wende and Todd are a joy, and a time to discover the rich resources that our Lutheran tradition holds. Seasonal planning meetings with the entire program staff allow us to brainstorm how the entire ministry of our church can celebrate seasons like Advent together. It has been exciting to envision and enact worship that is reverent, uplifting, and joyful.

Confirmation

Perhaps the greatest joy in my job is leading Wednesday night Confirmation, and being a part of Sunday morning Confirmation Forum. I have loved rethinking how to bring topics found in the Catechism to life in a relatable and interesting way. While I was unable to participate in the Winter Retreat alongside FLY this year because of a prior commitment, I look forward to making this an integral part of my ministry in the future.

FLY

I've spent limited, but very meaningful time with Faith's high schoolers over this year. I was blessed to be able to attend both mission trips to Haiti and the Quad Cities over this past summer. This was a great way for me to rekindle relationships with the students who I had met over my internship year. (It was also a lot of fun for me!) I was able to attend a couple summer FLY sessions, as well as help lead at the 30 Hour Famine this past October. I look forward to continuing to find ways to be involved in the great ministry that Jen is leading here in FLY.

Baptisms

We have celebrated quite a few baptisms this year! As part of this ministry I've visited with all the families before their baptismal ceremony in order for me to get to know them and answer any questions they may have. This has been a great way for me to get to know a population of the church I didn't really have the opportunity to meet while on my internship. To cap off this year, we held a baptismal celebration on December 10th for all families who had a baptism in 2017 or 2016.

Pastoral Care Team

At the end of the summer I began meeting with the Pastoral Care Team, setting a regular date for us to convene. We check in on our visits, offer feedback and encouragement, and share insights we've gleaned. We have recently begun reading *All Our Losses, All Our Grievs* as a team in order to better understand the nature of grief in its many forms.

Service Team

I have begun to work with Debbie O'Connor and the service team to gain a better understanding and appreciation of how service opportunities happen here at Faith. I am incredibly grateful to all those who volunteer to lead things such as God's Work Our Hands, PADS, the Food Pantry, etc. and help to make our community a better and more welcoming place. I am also still involved with DuPage United, and reassessing how our congregation can be best involved in local community organizing efforts. Personally, I am helping to lead the Prepared and Rapid Response Team, a group that is working in solidarity with Muslims and other populations who have been discriminated against in our communities.

Adult Education

Alongside Pastor Wende I have been teaching Wednesday morning's Inspire Bible class and Thursday morning's class. We found joy this summer exploring many of the writings of Martin Luther commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. This fall we have been exploring Isaiah and finding SO many connections between Isaiah's situation and that which we currently live in. Pam and I have begun leading a conversation on the first Sunday of every month entitled Faithful Families. These discussions focus on "how do I talk with my kids about ____ and what does my faith contribute to that conversation?" These have been fun and educational discussions for me.

Continuing Education

This summer I attended the Festival of Homiletics, a week-long conference put on by Luther Seminary. This was a great time of learning, preaching, and fellowship with many of my former classmates and friends. I have also been attending first-call coaching offered by a company called Samaracare, helping me to understand situations that happen in churches and what my response as a pastor is. In addition, even though the synod has not been offering formal first-call education, I have been meeting regularly with a group of young clergy in the area in order to share support and learnings.

As we continue in this transition process and move towards interviewing new senior pastor candidates, I am grateful for all I have learned in this transition process. It has given me a new appreciation for all the work that goes into preparing a congregation for a new pastor. I believe that though it has felt like an incredibly long process, the staff and congregation of Faith are all better off for having gone through this time. As I look ahead to next year, the verse from Jeremiah 29 continues to run through my mind. I pray that as we begin to see the unveiling of the plans that God has had all along, we can see, hear, and feel how full of hope our future together is.

Yours in Christ,

Pr. Joe Yucha

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY	Todd Carrico
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2017 was a unique year in the life of Faith in two major ways. We celebrated the 70th Anniversary of our church as well as the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Second we said goodbye and Godspeed to Pastor Honig and welcomed two new pastors into our midst, Pastor Wende West and Pastor Joe Yucha. Even though the Anniversary Celebrations and the change in pastoral leadership shaped the year in unusual and challenging ways for Faith, the Music Ministry continued to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through music. This report tells you about this ministry of proclamation, prayer and praise during 2017.

Sanctuary Choir

The Sanctuary Choir had a busy year learning and singing wonderful music! Almost every Sunday from January to December with a summer break, the choir sang great traditional music by masters such as Bach, Carter, Howells, Thomson, Gallus, Gibbons, Purcell, de Lassus, Rutter and Schuetz, along with more contemporary pieces by Bouman, Manz, Vaughan Williams, Jennings and Rutter. For Christmas this year the choir sang a piece in Spanish, *El Cielo Canta*, and Swahili, *Natufurahi*, with added percussion for more flavor. The choir also sang well-loved anthems *Psallite* by Michael Praetorius and *In the Bleak Mid-winter* by Harold Darke. The choir rehearses weekly and also has sectional time on Sunday mornings at 10:00.

For Music Sunday this year the Sanctuary Choir presented Cantata 6, ***Bleib bei uns*** (*Stay with Us*) by J. S. Bach, with an orchestra of strings, two oboes, english horn and organ. Singing the piece in German, which is based on the story of the Road to Emmaus, the choir was joined by two outstanding soloists, Dr. Katherine Calcmuggio-Donner from the faculty of the University of Louisville and her husband Jesse Donner. Jesse recently completed a two-year appointment as a Young Artist with the Chicago Lyric Opera. Jeanne Johannesen and Paula Johannesen respectively handled the difficult solo cello and violin movements with meticulous artistry. WOW! Luther was right when he said "Music makes the words live." This was undeniably obvious in sharing this tremendous work with the congregation.

An important part of Faith's Music Ministry each year is Christmas caroling. This year we had a record number of singers from the choir and the Praise Band turn out. We caroled to Shirley Stime, John Rahm, Betty Zelent, Marilyn Shomler and Shirley Orlopp at Brookdale.

Praise Band

The Praise Band led worship about every other week during the 2017 program year beginning with the God's Work, Our Hands outdoor service. Weekly rehearsals are held throughout the year with a break in December. Tom Pfaff continues his great work not only in playing the piano in the Praise Band, but also helping with all the details that come up. Ethan Kamperman from COD and Dr. Andrew Veit assisted with percussion beginning in the fall. During 2017 the Praise Band continued to provide variety and different styles and sounds to our worship experiences. Many thanks are due to everyone who participated in this ministry

Sharon Brockmeier prepared the books for the band which is a huge job. Karen Johnson occasionally helped in this project as well. In addition, she and Larry cataloged and filed the music for all of the groups throughout the year. Sadly for us, Larry and Karen are moving away but have already begun to train their replacements. Thank You good and faithful servants for so many years of service to the Music Ministry at Faith. You will be greatly missed!

Lutheran Youth Choir International

The Lutheran Youth Choir International had one of its most successful trips ever to Germany last summer. The board members, all from Faith, Sandy Becker, Larry Johnson, Pamela and Philip Spencer, Kristine Sublette, Robert Wulffen and myself worked tirelessly to make this happen. Emily Gorz provided outstanding technological help for our online recruitment efforts.

Eight students from Walther Christian Academy in Melrose Park formed the basis of our group of 19 and two teachers from that school, Cindy and Darryl Holliday were fantastic chaperones and helpers. Darryl even added a great touch by playing jazz saxophone with the group. The choir once again stayed at Castle Mansfeld, Luther's boyhood home. This was our fourth visit to the castle.

The choir sang in Erfurt, Mansfeld, Eisenach, Brandis (outside of Leipzig) and Berlin. Germany was glittering and we had a front-row seat to all of the festivities surrounding the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Visit the website at Lutheranyouthchoir.org for more photos and information about the choir and then like the Lutheran Youth Choir on Facebook.

Because of the five trips that the Lutheran Youth Choir has taken to Germany, I have been able to take literally thousands of pictures of Lutherland. This year I learned how to set up the computer and projector so I was able to make presentations for the Martha Circle, the children in Joyful Noise and others. Organizing and putting together all of these pictures and practicing the technical parts of these presentations, became an important tool for me in making the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation come alive to others. Thanks to Ken Fulks, Eric Enskat, Pam Voves and others for suffering through my learning curve on this project. It certainly is of no use to have all of these pictures hidden away in my computer and not able to share them.

70th and 500th Celebrations

One of the themes of the 70th anniversary was to use the image of decorated doors to look back on the people who have contributed so much to Faith. Focusing on the areas of Music Ministry and worship, the hallway and doors on the second floor were decorated with hundreds of pictures of choirs, the Praise Band, various instrumentalists, the Lutheran Youth Choir, Dakota Road, and many other people. We attempted to show through photographs, the many dedicated members of Faith who have contributed and shared their time and talent in the Music Ministry over the years. Thanks to Denise Cmiel, Kathy Zima, Jean Pfaff and others for putting these posters together and displaying them so beautifully.

Another way to celebrate both the 70th Anniversary of Faith and the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, centered on hymnody. I chose hymns from the Common Service Book with Hymnal (1917), Service Book and Hymnal (1958), Lutheran Book of Worship (1978) and Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006). I tried to choose hymns that our congregation would have certainly sung and loved for the longest time possible. Christmas carols were excluded.

I also gave some background information on these hymns in Faith Happenings. Specific to the 500th Reformation Celebration, hymns were chosen throughout October that were either written by Luther himself or were associated with Luther and his reforms, such as the German Mass of 1526. Also during September and October, each Sunday featured organ music based on Luther hymns.

During October the congregation learned a tremendous Luther hymn ELW # 594, *Dear Christians One and All Rejoice*. The celebration culminated in two festive worship services on October 29 led by the Sanctuary Choir, brass quintet, timpani and organ in new arrangements of well-known hymns including of course, *A Mighty Fortress*. The Sanctuary Choir sang a very powerful piece on Romans 3, *We Are Redeemed* by Lee Dengler, which concluded with a beautiful setting of *Amazing Grace*. It was a grand and glorious way to remember God's goodness both to our congregation over the last 70 years and also to the Lutheran Church over these last 500 years.

Joyful Noise

The children of **Joyful Noise**, Faith's music ministry for children, had another great year singing life-changing and life-affirming music. **Joyful Noise**, is divided into two choirs. The younger children are directed by Kathy Zima in Good News. Kathy does a tremendous amount of work, not only Good News, but for all of **Joyful Noise**. She keeps track of Baptism birthdays, communicates with parents and handles many other administrative details. Thank You Kathy.

I direct the older children in a choir called New Song. In New Song, as well as Good News, Kathy and I teach the tools of faith and of worship leadership. Each week the children sing and learn a wide variety of music ranging from Music That Makes Community (paperless music), Psalm refrains, hymns and descants, as well as anthems based on the seasons of the church year. These songs are part of their heritage, their birthright. When the children sing in the service, we teach them that they are making an important and unique offering to God.

Springtime saw the singers of **Joyful Noise**, present the musical *Happy Day!* both at the Brookdale and also to the Congregation. The musical centered around the joy of Easter and both audiences were wildly enthusiastic! The Pajama Party rehearsal was really fun as well. Thanks to Tricia Swanstrom for again making the musical such a fun event for the children and the congregation as well. The kids always have fun dancing, singing and telling their story.

In addition to leading worship on Sundays, **Joyful Noise** also extends its voice into the community. In April the children participated in a Feed My Starving Children session. What fun to fill up the bags of food and to help feed hungry people across the world!

Each year, Christmas caroling in December at the Brookdale is a joyous tradition for **Joyful Noise**. This year we began with about five people listening and by the end there were probably more than 50 people enjoying the music. As we have done for the last few years, we carol to the residents first and then I send the kids out into the crowd to have conversations with the people. We do Introductions first and then continue with a few starter questions such as "What is your favorite Christmas carol?" and, "What is the best gift you ever got for Christmas?" The residents have a lot to tell our young singers and vice versa. I think the conversations could go on for 30 minutes if we had the time.

The dual anniversaries that Faith observed in 2017 formed the basis of the **Joyful Noise** curriculum in the fall. Each Wednesday session featured a special theme.

Sept. 27 Handbells. We added bells to *The Spirit Comes* by Chinese composer I-Toh-Lo

October 4 St. Francis of Assisi Day. Tree Song! "Lord, make us instruments of your peace"-- St. Francis Prayer around the peace pole. Blessing of the animals with Pastor Joe.

October 11 Explore the harpsichord. We listened and learned about the harpsichord and tried it out on some of our pieces.

October 18 Pictures from Germany. The children saw the very spot where Luther started the Reformation, translated the Bible into German, where he was born and where he died.

A special brass Reformation coin was given to each child with the three Solas.

October 25 A visit by Dr. Martin Luther himself! Then we wrapped it all up by singing A Mighty Fortress.

Please encourage people that you know who have young children to send them to **Joyful Noise**. They will learn to love singing, their voices and their Lord. Training our younger people in the faith is very important in my world and that is why I spend so much space in my Annual Report this year telling you about **Joyful Noise**.

Handbells and Instrumentalists

Did you know that Faith has two handbell choirs? The Hallelujah Ringers meet on Monday afternoons and the Glory Ringers meet on Monday evenings. Each group rings about six or seven times a year including the 20-minute Prelude before the 10:00 Christmas Eve service. This year we welcomed a new member into each group.

In addition to the bells, other vocalists and instrumentalists were involved in Christmas Eve services this year. At the 10:30 AM service, Hannah Miller played the flute. At the 3:00 service, Kathy Zima played the flute and Ashley Zima sang a solo and for the 10:00 service, Dane Engman played the clarinet.

The Faith Brass Quartet along with percussionist Dr. Andrew Veit played at the 8:00 Christmas Eve service and the hymns were led at the 10:00 services by trumpets played by Christina and Stephanie Warner. A Big Thank You goes out to the members of Faith Brass who always add a bright, festive character to our Easter and Christmas Eve services. Thank You to Larry Tomko, John Walton, Michael Johannesen, Christina Warner, Stephanie Warner, David Jenz and Nick Jenz. Your contribution to worship is always powerful and uplifting.

Faith Forum and other Educational Presentations.

During 2017 I gave three Faith Forums based on the Bach cantata that the choir presented on Music Sunday. The titles were I. *Bach Cantata Six: The Man, the Myth and the Mission (or Mystery)* complete with a Bach quiz just for fun. II. *Bach Cantata Six: A Masterpiece of Poetry in Music-Movement One*. III. *Bach Cantata 6: Everything Else-The Rest of the Cantata*. In addition to the Faith Forums, I gave a presentation to the Wednesday and Thursday Morning Bible classes on the first hymnal of the Reformation, the famous *Achtliederbuch of 1524*, (Yes, it is famous!) and the very interesting organ music written on these hymns by German composer Dietrich Buxtehude.

TuneUp continues to be an important tool in helping members of the congregation discover or re-discover their singing voice. I gave five TuneUps in 2017. In just a few minutes everyone can sing in tune. Sometimes the participants are so excited about their TuneUp, that they join a musical group here at Faith. However even when they don't, their improved singing strengthens congregational song on Sunday mornings.

Continuing Education

My Continuing Education this year consisted of attending the Valparaiso Institute for Liturgical Studies in April. The theme of the Institute was Liturgy Serving The Life of the Church: How Worship Re-forms Us (500th Year of the Reformation). I always find the Institute a wonderful time for renewal and refreshment.

Worship

This year, after seemingly endless discussion, Faith changed the Sunday morning worship times to 8:30 and 11:00. This change has meant more warmup time for groups participating in the 8:30 service but unfortunately not more preparation time for groups singing or ringing at 11:00. The elimination of the 7:30 service has helped me stay sharp for the second half of the 11:00 service each Sunday and that has been welcome.

Additional worship related projects during 2017 included helping intern David Petersen learn to chant the liturgies. I also worked on planning weddings, including my daughter's, and funerals. Along with other members of the Staff I worked to plan special services such as Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Night Prayer, Blue Christmas, Easter and Christmas.

Staff

Over the course of the year, I took my turn in leading staff meetings and preparing devotions. We welcomed Joe and Wende into our midst. During the Year we read and discussed two books: *Rising Strong* by Brene Brown and *Navigating Pastoral Transitions* by Barbara Kerkhoff. We have outstanding relationships among our staff and I continue to find that an undeniable blessing in working at Faith.

Transition Projects

Because I had not done this in over 13 years, I spent a lot of time reflecting on and reviewing my job description. I also met with Lenore Klausner, my worship representative on Council. Because of my conversations with Lenore, I began, in October, to provide brief, monthly informational reports to the Council on the Music Ministry at Faith. These should give the Church Council some important insight into what my job encompasses at Faith.

I also spent time meeting with Deb Hornell and Ted Flores as we discussed the completed revised job description. In addition, I continue to meet regularly with my Mutual Minister, Tom Pfaff. Other activities regarding the transition included, along with the rest of the staff, an informative meeting in September with Bishop Miller and a session with the Intentional Impact Leadership Assessment people in November.

Other Activities

I preached my first sermon ever in October. I usually "preach" from the back of the church on the organ bench and with the Praise Band or Choir, but given the chance to "preach" up front I ended up with quite a lot to say. How stories about New York Yankee pitcher C. C. Sabathia and Luther's Small Catechism go together I still can't seem to figure out, but it seemed to go OK. Thanks to Pastor Wende for asking me to do this and for giving me a ton of help and encouragement.

Sometimes I need to be away on Sunday mornings either because of vacation or Continuing Education. When that happened this year the worship leadership was again wonderfully handled by Tom Pfaff, Phil Spencer, Carol Olmstead and Karla Wente. Thank You.

Thanks to all who sang, rang, played an instrument or helped in any way in Faith's Music Ministry during 2017. Please know that you are deeply appreciated and that your work is important. Making music and sharing it with others is a powerful way to "Make the words live," and to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to our troubled world. **Thank You!**

Soli Deo Gloria!

Todd Carrico, Director of Music Ministry

Jesus said, "*Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.*" Matthew 19:14

We are blessed at Faith to have little one's murmurings in worship, children's voices lifted in song, the sound of feet scampering to Sunday School, and the parents and grandparents who bring them! Children (of all ages) show us the grace, love, forgiveness and playfulness of God – the kingdom of heaven.

We are also blessed to have adults who welcome our children into worship, learn their names and say hello, and use their talents to lead Sunday School. We are a congregation in which generations worship, learn and love together. Thanks be to God!

Craig Warner is the representative on the congregation council that relates to Family Ministry.

Sunday School

The Sunday School classes are combining this year: Preschool and Kindergarten, First and Second grade, Third and Fourth grade, Fifth and Sixth grade. The number of students registered in each class makes it necessary for classes to combine. This has been a positive experience for both teachers and students.

In the fall each class collected change for several weeks to give to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. The students collected \$283.18!

For Christmas this year, the Sunday School children led the 11:00 worship service on December 17. Each class led different parts of the liturgy: Call of Worship, prayers, lighting of candles and leading the peace. All the classes sang *Away in a Manger* together as the Hymn of the Day. The classes sent the congregation at the end of the service as they sang the blessing hymn, *Shalom, My Friend*.

Adult Forum

Adult Forum provided many opportunities for Sunday adult faith formation through both outside speakers and leaders from our congregation. In the beginning of the year Jeff Crosby lead an interesting session on Martin Luther King Jr. called *The Strength to Love: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's Challenge to Us Today*. In February and March Pastor Jim, Beth Nyland and Kris Guastaferrri led a multi week conversation on the topic of Faith, Sexism and Justice. Todd Carrico presented on the Bach Cantata that the choir performed in the spring.

Dr. Paul Bischoff came for three weeks in October to teach about Martin Luther and the Reformation. We also spent some time in the fall sharing stories about Faith Church and what this congregation has meant to us over its 70 years.

Faith Stepping Stones:

- Baptism
- First Bibles (2nd grade) - Thank you to Beth Sekera for leading the learning session.
- First Communion Instruction (5th grade)
- Entry into Confirmation Studies (7th grade)
- Confirmation (8th grade)
- High School Graduation (12th grade)

Trick-or-Trunk

Trick-or-trunk is held each year on the Sunday afternoon before Halloween in Faith's parking lot. Kelly Parratore planned all the details for 2017. The children enjoyed the fun games and activities. There was even fresh popped popcorn and warm apple cider! The high school kids participated by decorating cars and doing face painting.

Growing U

This multi-general Lenten series once again generated energy and enthusiasm for learning more about our faith. There were thirteen classes total. There were options for 5-week classes, 2-week classes, or 3-week classes. All classes had three components: educational, experiential, and conversational. They each were designed to be multi-generational, faith formative and interactive. I was asked to lead a book discussion on *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown.

PJ's and Prayers

On the evenings of Thursday, June 22 and Sunday, July 30 a dozen or so families with young children came to church – in their PJ's! – to listen to a story, do an activity together and then say their bedtime prayers before heading home. This was a great way for parents to get to know each other. It was also fun for young children to be at church and get to explore, be wiggly, sing and pray.

Worship Leadership

In 2017 I have been a leader in the worship life at faith in many ways: preached every 6-8 weeks, worked with the pastoral staff on funeral preparation, worked with the program staff to imagine creative ways to highlight and feature seasonal aspects of worship, and coordinate with Lenore Klausner (worship council representative) to communicate details and changes.

Waking Up White – book discussion

For four weeks in September thirty courageous people came together to talk about race, racism and white privilege. We all read the book *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving. Everyone was vulnerable and grew in their understanding of systemic racism and the place it has in the history and current context of our country. I was proud and humbled to facilitate this discussion.

Continuing Education and Professional Growth

- Institute of Liturgical Studies - Valparaiso University
In April I attended the ILS. This conference is more meaningful each year as my role with worship expands.
- Faith Forward Conference
In May I attended a conference focused on equipping leaders who work with children, teens and families. Each year the overarching theme is Reimagining Children's and Youth Ministry through Theology, Relationship and Practice.
- Anti Bias, Anti Racism Workshop for educators
Eight members of Faith attended this workshop together. This was a helpful workshop for classes who do not have children of color and still need to be aware of the issues of racism.
- Spiritual Care Visitor Training
In November I was blessed by Bishop Wayne Miller as I finished a 10-week class through the Bishop Anderson House. This formal education and learning experience bolsters my practical experience of visiting and listening to people who need care. This is the same training that Faith's Pastoral Care Team completed 5 years ago.
- ESL Tutor
I continue to be a one-on-one ESL tutor with the People's Resource Center. I enjoy the growing friendship with my student and she is opening my eyes about the unrest in South Sudan where much of her family still lives.
- Synod Network Leadership Team
I am a team leader and mentor for a small group of pastors in the western suburbs of Chicago. We take time to encourage and grow a culture of reproducing leaders in our congregations.

Pam Voves, Deacon, Director of Family Ministry

YOUTH MINISTRY

Jen Bradbury, Director of Youth Ministry
Craig Warner, Congregation Council Rep

2017 was another outstanding, fruitful year of ministry in FLY (Faith Lutheran Youth). Ministry highlights included

Fostering students' relationships with God and one another through FLY Nights (Wednesdays, 7-8:30 pm), FLY Forums (Sundays, 10-10:45 am), and assorted events throughout the year.

Students in FLY consistently point to our discussions at both FLY Nights and FLY Forums as something they look forward to that also helps them grow in their faith. During 2017 FLY Nights we discussed refugees and immigration (in response to President Trump's travel ban); whether or not you can pray for success, strength, and dates in a series called *Can I pray for...?*; the complexity of Jesus in a series called, *Jesus Behaving Badly*, in which we looked at stories where Jesus appears to be racist, sexist, anti-family, and anti-environment (Student Leader Nick Rohla led the one on climate change), and how Jews, Buddhists, and Muslims view Jesus in a series called *Another Perspective*. One thing that continues to make FLY Nights unique is that all of the topics discussed during them are chosen by FLY's Student Leadership Team.

FLY also participated in and led two of the classes offered during *Growing U: Experiential Prayer* and *Three Books of the Bible You've Never Read*. Throughout these classes, it was clear that having intergenerational conversations is not something people are used to. It's awkward and hard for both students and adults alike. Yet, it also became clear how beautiful intergenerational conversations can be when they unify people, give them common experiences and a chance for genuine conversations, and give people of all ages the opportunity to learn from one another.

In 2017, high school students discussed a variety of topics during Sunday morning FLY Forums including the lesser known Judges, the relationship between faith and science (specifically addressing Adam and Eve and creation), the trinity using clips from the movie, *The Shack*, and the Troublesome Apostles.

In order to give teens the opportunity to connect with God and each other over the summer, this year we also held three Summer FLY's. These gatherings included a campfire, snacks, and a lively discussion about ghosts using the story of Saul conjuring Samuel, baptism and the Holy Spirit, and Revelation 20. Most importantly, however, Summer FLY gave teens an opportunity to see one another during the summer months. This helped maintain the community that FLY works so hard to create throughout the school year.

Aside from developing students' relationships with God and one another through thought-provoking discussions, FLY also helped students deepen their relationships with one another through various social events. These events included a study night prior to finals, several Game Nights, occasional breakfasts during FLY Forum, an outing to a Chicago Wolves Game, breakfasts and lunches at local restaurants over the summer months, Slip 'N Slide Kickball, and a Christmas party.

FLY also continued connecting with students via social media, developing Instagram (@flyglenellyn) and Twitter (@GlenEllynFLY) accounts. These social media accounts, both of which are run by student leaders, keep families updated about forthcoming FLY events and provide FLY with a timely way of sharing pictures.

Helping students deepen their faith through FLY's annual Winter Retreat.

17 students from FLY (along with five adult leaders) participated in FLY's 2017 winter retreat, during which we wrestled with self-image using the story of Joseph. As part of this conversation, we wrestled at length with the role race plays in our self-images. The retreat was truly incredible and included thoughtful discussions, in-depth sharing, much laughter and fun.

For the second year, confirmands joined FLY for the Winter Retreat. While we did age-appropriate, separate content, we joined together for meals, our version of the Amazing Race, free time activities including broomball, an experiential prayer experience, and worship. This format worked very well, enabling students to build relationships with one another. This year, students were also able to bond with one another on the way to and from the winter retreat thanks to Carl Henninger, who donated his time and drove us there and back in a school bus.

Deepening students' understanding of worship through their leadership of Youth Sunday.

In 2017, FLY continued the long-held tradition of leading worship on Youth Sunday, which 23 high school students participated in. While Youth Sunday was, in every way, a success, the most transformative parts of Youth Sunday happen behind the scenes. They come in the hours teens spend wrestling with the day's Scripture readings in order to choose their theme (in this case, *Journey*); In the way in which youth plan our worship service, carefully choosing hymns to illustrate our theme and writing various parts of the liturgy; In the time spent rehearsing music, when teens come to realize their gifts can be used to lead our congregation in worship; And in the hours that senior, Nicole Clapp, spent working on her reflection, learning to articulate her faith journey to others. These aspects of Youth Sunday are what results in lasting faith formation.

This year, Youth Sunday, which was held on March 12, took on added significance because it was the first Sunday after Pastor Jim's departure. Having the youth so prominently involved in worship that week conveyed a powerful message of hope to our congregation.

Teaching students to grieve following Pastor Jim's departure.

Students in FLY were shocked by Pastor Jim's departure, which they grieved deeply. Students felt this grief acutely because for many of them, Pastor Jim was the only senior pastor they'd known. He baptized and confirmed them. As a result of students' grief, during the two FLY's immediately following Jim's announcement, adult leaders took time to process the news – as well as its implications – with the teens at Faith. Student leaders worked with Jen to plan a special farewell for Pastor Jim on Feb. 22. This gave students in confirmation and FLY an opportunity to formally say *thank you* and *good-bye* to Pastor Jim in a meaningful way.

Facilitating ways for students to live out their faith in the world around them.

In 2017, FLY took its international mission trip to Pignon, Haiti through Praying Pelicans Missions, June 10-17. 18 people participated in the Haiti Mission Trip, including five adult leaders: Jen Bradbury, Denise Cmiel, Lindsey Coleman, Craig Warner, and Pastor Joe Yucha. In preparation for the Haiti Mission Trip, Jen spent time training these adult leaders how to do missions well in both one-on-one settings as well as in group conversations. Such training enabled leaders to thrive in their roles while on the ground.

The Haiti Mission Trip stretched and challenged our team well. Praying Pelicans did a great job meeting our team's unique needs, including an extended processing time, which enabled the team to wrestle with issues of justice, Scripture, and what their time in Haiti meant for life at home. The team met July 11 to continue debriefing.

One key to the success of our mission trip was the nine months of preparation we did prior to it. At our mission trip meetings, we learned about the culture of Haiti; How to do short-term mission trips well; And the theological basis for short-term missions. Through the discussions and activities done at these meetings, our 18 participants became a cohesive team. This allowed them to function effectively during their time in Haiti and gave them the tools needed to process and make sense of their experience.

Another important aspect of our mission trip to Haiti was the opportunity to share our experience with our family of Faith, first at our Shareholder's Dinner on Sunday, Sep. 24 and then at an adult forum on November 12. Because we speak our faith into being, verbally articulating their experience helps solidifies its impact on teens' lives.

In 2017, FLY also took a combined confirmation and high school mission trip to the Quad Cities through Youth Works Missions, July 16-21. Jen Bradbury, Lindsey Coleman, Heidi Janss and Pastor Joe Yucha served as adult leaders for this trip. Three students also served as student leaders: Emily Sekera, Christina Warner, and Michael Zima. They did a phenomenal job establishing a culture of welcome on the trip, especially for those students still in confirmation. They also grew immensely during their week-long plunge into leadership.

Overall, our Quad Cities trip was a huge success that reaffirmed the power of combined mission trips. Combined mission trips continue to be one of the most powerful things confirmation and FLY does. Our team had an incredible time in the Quad Cities, where junior high and high school teens served side-by-side and then learned and grew in their faith together through our evening discussions as a church.

In addition to serving during the summer mission trips, students from FLY served locally throughout the entire year. On October 27-28, FLY participated in the 30 Hour Famine. Although apprehensive about fasting, students were excited to participate. During the event, students participated in a prayer drive, where they prayed for various people and places within our community; several conversations about fasting, poverty, and hunger; a service project with the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry; and a book-writing activity in which they summed up their learnings about what it means to be hungry.

Students from FLY also served during Faith's Trick or Trunk event on Oct. 29.

Additionally, they organized a coat drive for a Sudanese Refugee Church. They then delivered the coats to the church, played games, and shared a meal on Nov. 5.

Developing student leaders through FLY's Student Leadership Team and mentoring relationships.

Student leadership is the backbone of FLY. This is the part of FLY that alums most frequently cite as having the greatest impact on their spiritual formation. In 2017, FLY's Student Leadership Team met weekly for leadership development and training as well as to help plan various FLY events. Student leaders discussed and wrestled with concepts from Jen's devotional, *The Real Jesus*. Additional accomplishments of this year's Student Leadership Team included choosing topics to be discussed at FLY, welcoming students into FLY, and participating in confirmation home visits with Jen.

Aside from developing FLY's Student Leadership Team, Jen also continued investing in students by mentoring one girl in FLY, meeting weekly to share life together and discuss faith and by encouraging and equipping various students to lead discussions throughout the year.

Connecting Confirmands to FLY in order to help students grow in their faith and more easily transition into the FLY community.

FLY continues to make strides in connecting confirmands with high school students, something that has helped us more effectively transition teens into FLY after confirmation. A key part of this continues to be confirmation forum (held on Sunday mornings). Confirmation forum is discussion-driven and modeled after FLY Forum in order to get teens used to that format. It combines fun (games!) with engaging discussions. During the spring of 2017, confirmation students finished their year-long series (written by Jen) on the five promises they make at their confirmation: to live among God's faithful people, hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, share the good news of Christ in word and deed, serve others, following the example of Jesus, and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Following confirmation in the spring of 2017, confirmation forum continued to meet with just the 7th graders. During this time, they explored the Lord's Prayer. This time was critical, not only for the content covered, but for solidifying a class identity among these students.

In the fall of 2017, Confirmation Forum began its year-long series, *One Story* (also written by Jen). Through this series, students explored the thematic arc of scripture by looking at key stories from throughout the entire Bible, Genesis through Revelation.

Prior to confirmation, Jen visited each confirmand in their homes. By meeting with students and parents inside their homes, Jen (and the student leaders who accompany her) get a glimpse into their real lives and authentic selves. People are far more open and relaxed when they're on their own turf, often sharing deeply and vulnerably. Specifically, during each confirmation home visit, Jen helped students and their families process their confirmation experience, think through the promises they make at confirmation, and share their hopes for the future of their faith. These meetings were always awkward and yet always sacred. They gave parents and their children a chance to honestly discuss their faith in a way that isn't natural for most families.

Other efforts to connect the confirmands to FLY included our combined winter retreat and summer mission trip as well as several other combined events throughout the year, including a trip to Feed My Starving Children as well as an outing to Pump It Up.

For the second time in recent history, we confirmed eighth graders in the spring. We then transitioned the eighth graders into FLY the next Wednesday, using the end of the school year to welcome them. In the fall, FLY's student leaders shopped for, created, and delivered "Buddy Bags" to freshmen. Buddy bags included a series of small gifts, each with a specific tie to FLY, designed to get students excited about the upcoming year.

Developing adult leaders through regular training.

Helping students to form their faith requires the investment of many people. In 2017, FLY was blessed to have seven extraordinary adult leaders take part in its ministry: Becca Baker, Doug Bradbury, Lindsey Coleman, Emily Gorz, Heidi Janss, Andy Waters, and Stephanie Warner. Leaders met regularly during the fall for training alongside confirmation guides. Training focused on the book *The Search to Belong* and was co-led by Jen and Pastor Joe. It was intentionally discussion-based so as to allow everyone's voices to be heard as well as model good small group practices to leaders. Jen, Doug, and Stephanie attended the National Youth Workers Convention in November for additional training.

Serving the larger community of Faith.

In the last year, Jen has continued to serve the larger community of Faith by regularly preaching and working with Pam to organize Growing U. Jen also regularly connected with Faith's college students whenever they were in town.

Continuing to learn about and contribute to the ever changing world of youth ministry.

Youth Director, Jen Bradbury, had the joy of attending a justice conference in Vancouver, February 23 – 26. In addition to hearing from amazing speakers including author and activist Sarah Bessey, the fellowship with other like-minded people replenished Jen's soul during a very draining time at Faith. Jen also spoke at the *National Youth Workers Convention* in November on *Developing Leaders* and *Teaching Jesus*.

In July, Jen was invited to apply to be part of Fuller Youth Institute's Youth Ministry Innovation Cohort. She (and Faith) was accepted to this program at the end of July. As part of this cohort, FLY will be part of Fuller's next research study (Fuller has also done some of the most important youth ministry research in the last decade, including *Sticky Faith* and *Growing Young*.) As part of this, she and her ministry partner (Pastor Joe to be) participated in a 6-week online class on innovation in October - November. They will travel to Pasadena to participate in a three-day intensive in January. After that, they'll craft and implement an innovative youth ministry project at Faith. They'll then report on it through a TED style talk in December, 2018. All expenses will be paid through a Lilly Endowment Grant. This is something that, in the midst of a draining time of transition, is already breathing life into Jen.

This fall, Jen also began a two-year term on Judson University's Advisory Council. This role will enable Jen to keep her pulse on what's going on in the larger youth ministry world, including that of higher education. It will also continue to expand her youth ministry network.

The fact that Jen's role at Faith is 30-hours a week also affords her the opportunity to continue pursuing other interests – like writing and research – that also further her effectiveness at Faith. In April 2017, Jen's third book, *Unleashing the Hidden Potential of Your Student Leaders*, released. Published by Abingdon, this book (designed for both paid and unpaid youth workers) gives a theological basis for student leadership before then guiding youth workers in implementing student leadership teams in their own contexts. Jen also continued writing regularly for *Youth Worker Journal*, as well as the *Download Youth Ministry*, *Youth Ministry Partners*, and *30 Hour Famine* blogs. In June, she signed a contract for another book, this one on *Missions that Matter*, that will be published in Spring, 2018 by Abingdon Press. Jen is also contracted to write a parent and mentor guide for *Affirm* (also published by Abingdon Press), a curriculum designed for post-confirmation age use in mainline denominations.

Finally, Jen continued working as the Assistant Director of the *Arbor Research Group*. She spearheaded a major project with Arbor researching the effectiveness of short-term mission trips through InterVarsity Campus Fellowship. Her involvement in this research project also enhanced our own short-term missions experiences for confirmation and FLY, giving her new tools and practices to increase their effectiveness.

As we begin 2018, we have no doubt that this year will be a time of continued growth for FLY in both numbers as well as the faith formation of those teens and adult leaders entrusted to our care.

Faithfully Submitted,

Jen Bradbury

Director of Youth Ministry

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." Ephesians 2:10 (New Living Translation)

How miraculous it feels to celebrate the words above. It is a gift to openly and comfortably be able to live these words, share these words and teach these words – here at Rainbow Place, the Christian based preschool of Faith Lutheran Church.

To feel called by God in work and career is a most treasured gift. *Thank you*, congregation of Faith, for having me as your Preschool Director. To have a forum like the annual report to share and acknowledge the **"good things"** that are being done by **God's masterpieces** is a valued gift that comes with that position and our part of Faith's ministry.

We have celebrated many **masterpieces** in 2017. Rainbow Place is thankful for God's people in our staff, in our enrollment and in our community. Many wonderful people create each preschool day and reflect God's love in how we are able to do **good things**. The *master pieces* remain our teachers – the staff of 10 dedicated, wonderful, loving and especially patient, flexible women who share not only their education and teaching skills but their love of God and hope for these **good things** to continue. Additional *pieces creating good things* and sharing of preschool ministry are:

The Faith Program Staff – to share energy, insight and purpose with such a dynamic and committed group is such a **GOOD THING!** Rainbow Place appreciates each of you and what your areas of expertise and commitment represent. Jen – I learn so much from; Pam – I am inspired so much by you; Todd – musically, spiritually and relationally I am always strengthened by you.

Church Office Staff – they tolerate the trickles of noise that rise up through the vent, accommodate the interruptions to copying when we supplement the drawer with our funny colored paper and always offer smiles and interest in what the 7 different classes (two of which meet year round) are doing and are engaged in. Sally and Eric you are valued!

Mr. Rich – at the ready for spills or messes too much for our efforts and cares deeply about our safety and well-being inside and out of the building – more **good things** than clearing snow.

Church office volunteers – many offer a welcome smile on a hectic morning or share their own ministry stories with us. It reflects God's love and service. Friday morning folding teams share fellowship and engage in our lives – thank you always for these connections. A huge thank you to Donna Hilt for being a part of Gingerbread Day and to Susan Hawkinson for her part in random but yearly Dad's Night project and finding the gojo soap ☺ - **good thing** and good hygiene!

Pastoral Staff – Pastors Wende and Joe shared their presence and support with the preschool from day one. Through them, Rainbow is able to connect the Past, The *Now* and feel guided toward the *Next*. The children love greeting the Pastors as they arrive from our playground. Having them (as well as Intern David) participate in a Gym activity as they pass through Luther Hall is always meaningful. The children feel valued, they feel accepted and comfortable in God's House – what a ministry gift. They both beautifully kept our Pastor Special story tradition going – different versions over the years, but a Christmas staple that represents a cornerstone of our curriculum and philosophy and frames the year to come in such a warm, inviting and masterful way. A teacher shared "the nativity being told to the children in the sanctuary is my favorite part of year. No matter who tells the story of Baby Jesus, be it Pam, Miss Eileen or one of the Pastors - the children's eyes are so filled with wonder and excitement. I have felt such peace there, in those moments." What a great summation of our intent in the experiences the children are provided. Looking forward to the continued Pastoral partnering (ideas are in the works for Valentine and Easter stories too.) A church family student shared his delight in having "the church guy scoop ice cream" - hands on learning and engagement from all. All **good things** and rewarding gifts for the school and staff.

Knowing God has a **plan for us**, that He knows us and the **good things** we are capable of is a message we incorporate in our preschool ministry. Isaiah 43:1 – “I have called you by name”. We take pride in knowing the children’s names and connecting with the families from their first visits to their current school days and years to come when our paths often reconnect and cross in new and sometimes very meaningful ways. *Then, Now and Next!* What a great experience 2017 brought in celebrating 75 years of Faith – 36 of which have had Rainbow Place actively here. The image of the door (*and That Door*) was powerful. The door to learning is used a lot in teaching. In addition to the countless doors parents open for their children in these early stages of development, preschool is a main door into their future learning. The books we read open minds, build knowledge and expand cognitive skills. The art they do opens doors to creativity, expression and fine-motor skills. Making friends, celebrating self and family, learning about God all opens the door into community, social skills and our place in God’s world.

It would be hard to call by name each person in the congregation who has had a valuable or meaningful role in Rainbow Place. I will close with Council. The time, effort and strides Council gives in balancing so many things is appreciated and valued. Brainstorming and commiserating with all things property with Ron Guastaferrri is a gift. Our teacher’s vision and the importance of the children’s presence is felt when he has so graciously acknowledged the children’s “**masterpieces**” displayed in our halls. Speaking of Halls – Jim is a rock of wisdom and compassion in the tedious, complex aspect of ministry finance. Jane Stroh – whose eloquent words about Rainbow brought clarity and ownership from *Then* to *Now* in such a valued way. The many past and present school board and council members that actively stay involved and committed to the ministry is a **good thing**. Phil Hartweg, and the invaluable Johnsons: Floyd, Hugh and Larry – you may not be official board or council members but your contributions and efforts – **God’s masterpieces** - have done good for Rainbow!

What a different place we are in from other annual reports – yet **God’s plan** for us is unchanged, **He planned it long ago**. With church/school staff and council and board - we are poised to continue to **do Good Things**.

Eileen Glynn

Director of Rainbow Place

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM	Ted Flores
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This is an “at large” council position, created to provide administrative support to Faith’s staff in managing the business of the church.

As 2017 has been a year of change and transition at Faith, much of my time and effort has been spent supporting transition efforts in a variety of organizational areas, including but not limited to:

- Review/update of job descriptions for intern and first call pastor;
- Prepared template for Pastor Transition Team to identify, track and document task status;
- Developed a standard format for staff job descriptions;
- Participated in staff job description review meetings to identify key functions.

Provided support in the form of contract review and management, and maintained a current spreadsheet of all contracts, service agreements, etc. Reviewed insurance of certain contractors to assure reasonableness or compliance with contract terms.

Oversight of Faith’s insurance programs, including managing the renewal process. The November 2017 renewal of the program with Church Mutual resulted in a premium savings, which was locked in for a three year term.

Supported the Property Team in areas of fire protection and safety, following inspections by the State Fire Marshall. Also provided input on review and selection of vendors.

Reviewed and provided comments/suggestions on the proposed Constitution revisions.

Ted Flores, Administration

Our main focus this year continues to be on the Prayer Project. A small team of us, Beth Nyland, Beth Sells, and Tom Pfaff, as well as occasional visitors have worked faithfully to create a set of prayers, one per week, to share with the congregation and others, in the hope of growing the prayer life of all of us. Here are the prayers we have created so far:

JANUARY 2017 Longing . . .

Jan 1: Longing for a plan—where to go, what to do, how to manage it all—we turn to you. Christ, be our purpose.

Jan 8: Longing to belong—to fit in, to be accepted, to not be alone—we turn to you. Christ, be a friend.

Jan 15: Longing for time—to save, to spend, to share—we turn to you. Christ, be here and now.

Jan 22: Longing for more—to have more, do more, be more—we turn to you. Christ, be enough.

Jan 29: Longing for relief—on the verge of giving in, giving out, or giving up—we turn to you. Christ, be our stamina.

FEBRUARY 2017 Light of the world . . .

Feb 5: Light of the world, so bright my eyes water and blink. Still, you guide my way.

Feb 12: Light of the world, so warm I want to curl up and rest. Still, you call me to move.

Feb 19: Light of the world, so vast I cannot fathom your reach. Still, you hold me close.

Feb 26: Light of the world, so faithful even when I stumble. Your grace has no end.

MARCH/APRIL 2017 God of mercy, hold us in love.

Mar 5: God of mercy, hold us in your merciful love. Show us how to forgive.

Mar 12: God of mercy, hold us in your attentive love. Help us to watch and listen.

Mar 19: God of mercy, hold us in your persistent love. Guide us to be patient.

Mar 26: God of mercy, hold us in your confident love. Teach us to trust.

Apr 2: God of mercy, hold us in your extravagant love. Inspire us to give.

Apr 9: God of mercy, hold us in your inviting love. Lead us to welcome others.

Apr 16: God of mercy, hold us in your hallelujah love. Awaken us to new life in you.

APRIL/MAY 2017 In your resurrection, Lord . . .

Apr 23: In your resurrection, Lord, restore me with humor and joy. Alleluia! Amen!

Apr 30: In your resurrection, Lord, release me from indecision. Alleluia! Amen!

May 7: In your resurrection, Lord, reboot my humdrum prayers. Alleluia! Amen!

May 14: In your resurrection, Lord, replace my fears with wonder. Alleluia! Amen!

May 21: In your resurrection, Lord, rejuvenate my faith in others. Alleluia! Amen!

May 28: In your resurrection, Lord, revive my playful spirit. Alleluia! Amen!

JUNE/JULY 2017 Holy Spirit

Jun 4: Stoke us, Holy Spirit. Turn our pale-gray embers into white-hot faith. Amen!

Jun 11: Carry us, Holy Spirit. Move us along on gusts of grace. Amen!

Jun 17: Save us, Holy Spirit. Keep us from drowning in whirlpools of worry. Amen!

Jun 25: Engulf us, Holy Spirit. Incinerate our sins with a blaze of forgiveness. Amen!

July 2: Move us, Holy Spirit. Send us out in ripples of generosity. Amen!

- July 9: Rouse us, Holy Spirit. Splash us awake with startling goodness. Amen!
Jul 16: Melt us, Holy Spirit. Singe the edges of our nagging fears. Amen!
Jul 23: Harmonize us, Holy Spirit. Blow unity into our dissonant songs. Amen!
Jul 30: Drench us, Holy Spirit. Soak our hearts in prayer and praise. Amen!

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017 Unspoken Prayers

- Aug 6: Squinting to understand. Wide-eyed in wonder. Hear the unspoken prayers of my sight, oh God. Amen!
Aug 13: Tedious chores. Flashes of "aha!" Hear the unspoken prayers of my effort, oh God. Amen!
Aug 20: Nervous giggles. Unexpected snorts. Hear the unspoken prayers of my laughter, oh God. Amen!
Aug 27: Clenched fists. Thumbs up. Hear the unspoken prayers of my hands, oh God. Amen!
Sept 3: Jumping up, exhilarated. Flopping down, exhausted. Hear the unspoken prayers of my energy, oh God. Amen!
Sep 10: Detailed plans. Aimless doodles. Hear the unspoken prayers of my work, oh God. Amen!
Sep 17: Sighs of weariness. Gasps of glory. Hear the unspoken prayers of my breath, oh God. Amen!
Sep 24: Marching on without doubt. Shrinking back, uncertain. Hear the unspoken prayers of my posture, oh God. Amen!
Oct 1: Re-used Aug 13

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2017 Give and Take

- Oct 8: Take hold of my agenda, so I can give time to neglected passions.
Oct 15: Take me to stillness, so I can give myself a rest.
Oct 22: Take me to new places, so I can explore new ways to give.
Oct 29: Take off my blinders, so I can give an honest view.
Nov 5: Take my stubborn pride, so I can give much-needed apologies.
Nov 12: Take away my insecurity, so I can give unbridled talent.
Nov 19: Take away distractions, so I can give care to what matters.
Nov 26: Take me out of silence, so I can give praise to you.

DECEMBER 2017 Advent and Christmas

- Dec 3: O Promised Peace: come and quiet the fuss and babble of our anxieties. Amen!
Dec 10: O Gift and Giver: come and widen the welcome of our tight little hearts. Amen!
Dec 17: O Holy Hope: come and be or reason to celebrate. Amen!
Dec 24: O Tiny Savior: come and jolt us awake with your cries. Amen!
Dec 31: O Holy Light: thanks for shining your promises into our cynical shadows. Amen!

We have also just launched a new team to look into communication here at Faith Lutheran. This team consists of Jayne Boeckelman, Joy DeWitt, Deb Hornell, Heidi Janss, Walter Leavy, Emma Miller, Beth Nyland, Beth Sells, Bob Stize and I. We have only met twice at this writing, but are interested in looking at all forms of communication here and seeing how we might improve it. If you have suggestions or are interested in joining us, you would be most welcome. Look for more information on this group in next year's annual report!

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Stroh

FAITH FORMATION

Craig Warner

The Church Council position for the area of Faith Formation combines two previous areas of responsibility that are very focused on our future: Christian Education and Youth. Working closely with two strong staff representatives in Pam Voves, Director of Family Ministry and Jen Bradbury, Director of Youth Ministry, Faith Formation is exactly what the name describes. Faith Formation focuses on forming a strong foundation of faith in the younger members of Faith Lutheran Church, through programs including Sunday School, Confirmation, Stepping Stones, FLY (Faith Lutheran Youth), and even into the college years and beyond.

As I complete my second term on Church Council (2 years representing Youth and 2 years representing Faith Formation), I reflect on the changes that have happened within the last year. Pastor Jim's departure in 2017 has had a significant impact on the staff and we were able to work together to keep the programs focused on the mission and vision of Faith Lutheran Church moving in the right direction. Please read Pam's and Jen's reports on these very important ministries at Faith Lutheran Church and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Warner

Church Council Representative - Faith Formation

FINANCE TEAM

Jim Hall, Treasurer

As I write this in early December, the 2017 financial results are still a mystery. Expenses are on track, even better than budgeted through November and likely will stay that way. Revenue is hard to predict during the year, as giving patterns have changed. Pledge counts have shown a fairly steady historical downward trend; unpledged giving helps to offset this, but again makes prediction difficult. Also, the untimely passing of several consistent, pledging givers has had a top-line impact. Special envelope giving can vary with the weather and the day of the week (Christmas).

So, I will refer you to the financial statements and our annual meeting comments for a discussion of the full-year numbers.

Unpredictability would be a much bigger concern were it not for the fact that our cash position remains strong and provides a safe buffer against any unpleasant surprises in the near-term.

With the departure of a very experienced senior pastor and the hiring of a first-call full-time associate pastor, our 2017 salary expense is not in the form that was anticipated when the 2017 budget was prepared. However, as proposed at the congregational meeting to approve Pastor Yucha's call, we "saved" the excess budgeted pastor salary in a "salary bank" to draw from in 2018 and 2019. That amount will be approximately \$62,000 at year-end, consistent with expectations. Not exactly GAAP accounting, but fully disclosed and prudent.

This is my annual chance to thank the dedicated people who quietly go about helping with Faith finances. Sally Stauber handles the accounting duties in the office, which include so much more (payroll, deposits, financial statements, vendor payments, etc.) than you might expect; Lynn Lullo has performed our bank account reconciliations every month; Steve Becker has handled all of our stock contributions and helped with cash management; Carl Henninger seamlessly took over for Bob Hawkinson as Financial Secretary; and a team of volunteers gave a portion of their Sunday mornings counting our regular offerings.

Jim Hall,

Treasurer

PROPERTY TEAM

Ron Guastaferrri, Congregation Council Rep

Let me start by thanking all volunteers from the congregation who ceaselessly devote their time and energy on a regular basis to maintaining our building and grounds. While some of your work may go unnoticed, it would be sorely conspicuous in its absence. A big THANK YOU (in no particular order) to: Floyd Johnson, Phil Hartweg, Larry Johnson, Hillary Carlson, Mike Rahm, Tom Pfaff, Jenny DeLuna, Nancy and Ray Burch, Greg Bates, Richard Mueller, Gregg Bresnahan, Mark Pedersen, Bert Brandt, Joe Bodzioch, Joe Malm, Hugh Johnson, Kent Aufdengarten, Ken Fulks, Alan Foster, Jean and Hal Steben, Christine and Jerry Sublette, Mary and Emil Petereit, Jeff Ulm, and to all who volunteer on Property Days. *My apologies to anyone I neglected to include on this list. Please make me aware of it!*

A brief recap of 2017:

- Although the weather was not very cooperative for either of our scheduled Property Days, we managed to tackle a multitude of indoor tasks. Our wonderful volunteers then came back for the rescheduled dates, and were able to get our grounds in top shape. Thanks to all who volunteered and to Gregg Bresnahan for taking the lead.
- Our plans for the Peace Pole became a reality this year. What a wonderful addition to Faith! Thank you to Retta Hennessy and all who were involved in the process.
- It was wonderful to see the vegetable garden in its full splendor this year. Thank you to Beatrice Ndayisenga, Pascasie Kabura and all who had a hand in making that happen.
- Phil Hartweg headed up a committee this past year to address the future of the house/property at 55 N. Park. Although we are still waiting on some information, Council anticipates having a plan of action in place in the coming year. Thanks to Phil and all who served on the committee.
- The majority of our furnace/AC units are 20 years old, which is the end of average life expectancy. While they appear to be running sufficiently for the time being, we have to anticipate replacement in the near future and have a plan for doing so. I am currently working with Floyd Johnson and Mike Rahm on this.
- Faith has been made aware of fire code violations that will need to be addressed. We have a couple of options to remedy the violations, and are in the process of forming a committee to decide which of those options to pursue.
- The omnipresent Phil Hartweg also headed up a committee in 2017 to study the longstanding issue of repairing vs. replacing our parking lot. The committee presented options and cost estimates for us to consider in 2018.

2017 was a busy year on the property front, and 2018 promises to follow suit. We have several large issues/projects looming on the horizon regarding 55 N. Park, furnace/AC replacement, fire code conformance, and the parking lot. Immediacy and funding will determine the order in which we approach tackling the list.

Let us thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us, and ask for His wisdom and guidance as we navigate through the year ahead. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Guastaferrri,

Property Chairperson

SERVICE TEAM

Debbie O'Connor, Congregation Council Representative

I am grateful for the many people who tirelessly volunteered to make these service opportunities a reality this year.

Crop Hunger Walk

Thanks to Linda Beisner who again took the lead for this event on May 7th, attended meetings, promoted the walk, and coordinated sign-ups.

PADS

Thanks to intern David Peterson for getting involved, recruiting and promoting, and volunteering most of our evenings, Debbie Twaddle for stepping in as dinner coordinator, Richard Mueller breakfast, Lois Bates food donations, Debbie O'Connor and Sophie Guastaferrri volunteer coordination, and Richard Mueller and Greg Bates laundry, and to the many Faith members who donated the food and time to serve.

Pastoral Care Team

Thanks to David Peterson, Pastor Wende and Pastor Joe for leading the team which continues to meet monthly and visit homebound and other friends and members in need of care and listening.

God's Work Our Hands

This was the fourth year our church participated in this event which took place on September 10. Kris Guastaferrri was the lead coordinator, and Donna Busching and Michelle Cole made up the planning committee. There were 8 service activities organized by Debbie Rhola, Donna Busching, Michelle Cole, Todd Carrico, Ashley Zima, Lynn Lullo, Kris Guastaferrri and Debbie O'Connor.

Welcome/Warming Center

Thanks to Bill Alrich for again taking the lead for our shifts at the Methodist church on Sunday afternoons beginning in November and continuing through March.

Peoples Resource Center Toy Drive

Thank you to Debbie Twaddle for volunteering to again head this effort. Toy donations doubled this year in thanks to effective promotion.

Glen Ellyn Food Pantry

Many thanks to Paula Serfling as our congregation's representative to the Board of Directors of the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry.

ESL

Thanks to Debbie Fulks, Sylvia Wulffen and Kathy Holz, who test, coordinate volunteers, and provide leadership for these students.

2017 Ministry of the Month

This are the financial contributions we made to various ministries during the year.

Jan.	GE Walk-In Ministry	\$963
Feb.	Rescue, Release, Restore Fundraising	\$1,045
Mar.	ESSE	\$904
Apr.	ESL Babysitting	\$1,312
May	PADS	\$771
Jun.	ELCA Disaster Relief	\$837
Jul.	GE Food Pantry	\$914
Aug.	Rainbow Place Scholarship Fund	\$1,022
Sep.	Family Shelter Services	\$512
Oct.	People's Resource Center	\$716
Nov.	ELCA World Hunger Appeal	\$2,864
Dec.	Lutheran Social Services of IL	\$949

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers for their generous gifts of time, talent, and service to so many.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie O'Connor

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Rob Herbold, Congregation Council Representative

*Stewardship Report to Congregation 2017***THEN • NOW • NEXT**

"We had earnest pastors to guide us, and there were many, many opportunities to serve God here at home and around the world. Faith is a special congregation. We've met challenges throughout the years, and we've always been a serving congregation – a giving congregation."

Alberta Skinner – one of the 68 founding members of Faith Lutheran Church

THEN, you have witnessed over the past year some of the diverse and abundant gifts we have at Faith Church through our ministries, people, facilities and talents. These are the means by which we as a community do God's work and our mission.

NOW, we hope you have had the opportunity give thanks to God for equipping us to do His work in our community, to reinforce our relationship to Faith and to our fellow members, and to commit ourselves by gifts of time and money to continuing this work through the many ministries that singularly define Faith.

NEXT, thank you for your continued contributions this year, both financially and with your time and talents. We are invited to recognize on a daily basis that all we have is a blessing from God, "Give us this day our daily bread". Can we recognize and challenge ourselves, in the coming year; to give more of ourselves to the Mission we share?

In Christ,

Your Stewardship Team.

TRANSITION TEAM

In a time of change and transition the people of Faith have used this opportunity to look inward to identify strengths, areas of opportunity, and goals for the future. A team representing a diverse cross-section of the congregation has been dedicated to the completion of the Ministry Site Profile—a document used by the synod as we begin the call process for a new senior pastor. The goal has been to complete the document in a timely manner while gathering the most accurate and comprehensive information possible.

The information obtained during the Year of Discernment became invaluable input in the process of developing our MSP. The completion of a membership survey in June (with nearly 300 results!) provided additional commentary and statistical values to aid in its completion. An adult forum hosted by the Transition Team provided a status update for the congregation while creating an opportunity for members of the congregation to brainstorm and discuss together further clarifying information. All of these things as well as our many discussions, provide the Transition Team great input and feedback.

We appreciate everyone's contributions and patience during this process. After meeting monthly since July, the MSP is now nearing completion. This work, along with the council's work, make us soon ready to move into phase three of our journey to a new pastor.

David Jenz, Suzanne Rahm, Beth Sekera, Tom Wendorf, Laura Yudys

WORSHIP TEAM

Lenore Klausner, Congregation Council Representative

"O give thanks to the Lord for He is good and His mercy endures forever." - Psalms 136:1

God is good. His mercy and love is forever. And so at this time, we remember to also give thanks...

Council Role

As a council member for the past three years, it has been an honor and joy to work with worship leaders and volunteers. In addition to my work on council, I see my role as a Worship Committee liaison between pastors, staff, and volunteers - communicating changes, sharing feedback, exploring ideas, and identifying needs for regular and special services. Embracing the changes we have experienced in 2017, our teams have responded with flexibility and joyfulness.

Thank you God, for servant hearts.

Worship Times

In 2017, Faith Lutheran Church has made some changes on Sunday. During the summer months, we combined three services into two and adjusted hours to 8:00 a.m. for the first service and 10:00 a.m. for the second service. Then in the fall, we continued offering two services, changing start times to 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. This allowed additional time for the Education Hour, FLY, and expanded Hospitality. We continue to monitor attendance as our members and visitors adjust to different times.

Thank you God, for giving us confidence to try new things.

Worship Teams & Leaders

Under the umbrella of Worship Committee, there are six teams: Acolytes, Ambassadors, Altar Guild, Assisting Ministers, Communion Deacons, & Ushers. These teams are self-shaping units, with the common goal of nurturing a Christ-centered worship experience each Sunday and special services throughout the year. The leaders of these teams communicate with their FAITHful volunteers so every service is fully covered.

Thank you God, for equipping our leaders.

Team	Leader	# of Volunteers Each Sunday
Acolytes	Holly Harty	4
Ambassadors	Leroy Boeckelman	4-8
Altar Guild	Lois Bates / Lenore Klausner	4
Assisting Ministers	Paula Serfling Nugent	2
Communion Deacons	Ginny Meyers	6
Ushers	Richard Mueller	8
Total		20-32

Communication

Throughout the year, the Worship Committee liaison is in contact with pastors, music director, staff, and each team leader to communicate details for upcoming regular worship and special holidays. It is important that teams are informed and have a clear awareness of how to best serve For His Glory.

Although email is the preferred communication mode, our quarterly face-to-face meetings are invaluable:

- February – team leaders met with Pastor Honig & staff to review specific details for Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter worship services
- May – first meeting of team leaders with Pastor Joe and Pastor Wende to review protocols, discuss summer schedule & times
- August – all worship servants and team leaders meeting (pep rally!) with Pastor Wende
- November – Worship Committee liaison met with Pastor Joe and Pastor Wende to review Lenten, Christmas, and New Year's schedule

Thank you God, for meaningful and abundant opportunities to worship and praise You.

Ministry Action Team

One outcome of our Year of Discernment conversation at the January 2017 Annual Meeting was that many members showed interest in being part of a Ministry Action Team for Worship. While this team did not convene as a group this year, many (staff and congregation) were inspired to do new things and explore innovative ideas. Due to the transitions and changes we experienced this year, it seemed appropriate to slow down and acknowledge our desire to say good-bye to Pastor Honig, welcome Pastor Joe and Pastor Wende, celebrate Faith's 70th anniversary, and rejoice at the 500-Year Reformation Anniversary. We expect to revive the Ministry Action Team for Worship in 2018 - stay tuned.

Thank you God, for sending the Holy Spirit to pilot our actions in the right way and at the right time.

Respectfully submitted,

Lenore Klausner

Women of Faith includes all the women of Faith Lutheran Church, although three circles meet regularly and a fourth for special events. All women are encouraged to participate individually or in a circle group. Following are some highlights of the year.

The Quilters group meets regularly in the WELCA room every Wednesday morning. On Quilt Sunday, September 24, half of the 216 quilts created were displayed on the pews during worship and later packed for shipment. Faith has now sent 6,015 quilts around the world, along with \$750 this year to cover shipping costs. A statement taken from the Lutheran World Relief website states, "First and foremost, recipients use their LWR quilts to shield against the cold and rain and for warm bedding. But their versatility also makes quilts useful as simple tents, floor coverings, or a wrap to hold a baby on a mother's back." Thank you to the quilting committee: Sandy Becky, organizer; Sandy Becker, Carol Franchi, Clara Gagliano, Kendra Lustrup, Donna Olson, Mary Petereit, Jackie Schmidt and new member, Karen Finerty.

Thirteen funeral/memorial services were conducted in 2017 at Faith and nine of them had receptions hosted by the Women of Faith and organized by Pam Hartweg. Pam would like to extend a thank you to all the women who participated by donating food or helping with the setup, serving or cleanup. With the help of so many generous hands, Faith provides a service to families during a time of sadness and loss. So many families have shared their appreciation of having one less detail to organize.

Over 100 ladies attended the Women of Faith Titanic Tea spring event. Lynn Rymarz entertained with her characterization of Molly Brown. \$1,507.15 was collected for the Midwest Veterans Shelter for Homeless Veterans, Inc. Thank you to Christina Warner who provided delightful musical entertainment.

In the fall Kathy Dibadj graciously opened her home for the Women of Faith open house fall event. Light snacks and beverages were offered as Women of Faith visited with familiar friends and new friends. Thank you to Kathy and to Christina Warner who played musical selections for all to enjoy. A collection of \$474.00 was given to the ESL organization that meets Tuesday afternoons at Faith to cover the cost of babysitters.

The Women of Faith Committee includes Pam Hartweg, Susan Hawkinson, Bev Johnson, Karen Johnson, Maren Malm, Jean Pfaff and Jean Steben.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<u>Pastoral Acts</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Baptismal	19	14
Marriages	4	6
Funerals (Memorial Services)	8	14
Youth Confirmed	14	18
<u>Membership</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>
Baptized	1443	1128
Confirmed	1053	878
Baptized Members Received	30	26
Confirmed Members Received	9	13
Baptized Members Confirmed	15	29
Baptized Members Removed (Death, Transfer, Other)	17	364
Confirmed Members Removed (Death, Transfer, Other)	13	261
Average Worship Attendance	287	264

STAFF

Church Office: 1-630-469-2361
Church Fax: 1-630-469-2371
Web Site: www.faithonline.org
Office E-mail: office@faithonline.org

Staff:	Phone Extension	Work E-mail
Rev. Wende West, Interim Senior Pastor	222	pastorwende@faithonline.org
Rev. Joe Yucha, Associate Pastor	224	pastoryucha@faithonline.org
Todd Carrico, Director of Music	227	tcarrico@faithonline.org
Pam Voves, Director of Family Ministry	244	pvotes@faithonline.org
Jen Bradbury, Director of Youth Ministry	228	jbradbury@faithonline.org
Sally Stauber, Secretary and Accountant	229	sstauber@faithonline.org accountant@faithonline.org
Eric Enskat, Pastoral Administrator	230	eric.enskat@faithonline.org
Rich Zima, Custodian		office@faithonline.org

Rainbow Place Office: 1-630-469-6219

2016-2017 Rainbow Staff List

Michele Bodzioch	Lead Teacher in Half-day 3's Class (T/Th)
Susan Bresnahan	Lead Teacher in Half-day 4's Class (M/W/F)
Jenny DeLuna	Lead Teacher Half-day 3's Class (T/Th) and 4's Class (M/W/F)
Closing Teacher	All-day 4's (M/T)
Mary Demling	Lead Teacher - Young 3's Class (T/Th)
Laurie Dieter	Lead Teacher in All-day 4's Class (M/W/F)
Linda Fairbairn	Lead Teacher – Enrichment Afternoons
Bonnie Gleason	Closing Lead Teacher All-day 4's Class (W/Th/F)
Eileen Glynn	Rainbow Place Director / Music and Movement Teacher
Shari Kempf	Lead Teacher in All-day 3's Class (M/T/W/Th/F)
Mardell Munier	Closing Lead Teacher All-day 3's Class (M/T/W/Th/F)
Karin Sammons	Lead Teacher in All-day 4's Class (T/Th)

2015 STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM SUMMARY

Carl Henninger

As of January 9, 2018

History of Pledges in Dollars per Week			
Year	Pledges	\$ per Week	Average \$ per week
2011	233	14,258.67	61.20
2012	219	14,556.59	66.47
2013	216	13,788.53	63.84
2014	214	13,553.32	63.33
2015	194	13,525.43	69.72
2016	182	13,612.24	74.79
2017	152	12,732.58	83.77
2018	152	12,475.73	82.07
Weekly Pledges Pledged			
\$ Range	Units		
0-19.99	17		
20-29.99	21		
30-49.99	28		
50-99.99	49		
100-149.99	13		
150+	24		
Total	152		
2018 New Pledges: 14			
17 Households did not pledge in 2018 of which:			
2 transferred out of Faith			
3 died in 2017			
13 did not pledge in 2018 that did in 2017			
Annual Amount from new Pledges: \$32,015			
2018 Pledge Income: \$648,858			

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH						
Balance Sheets						
			<u>Dec 31, 2015</u>	<u>Dec 31, 2016</u>	<u>Dec 31, 2017</u>	
Assets:						
	Cash		255,100	297,692	426,369	
	Certificates of Deposit		111,000	111,000	111,000	
	Ministry Growth Cash		10,006	9,238	10,026	
	Endowment Investments		203,427	264,452	268,256	
	Housing Fund Receivable		50,000	50,000		
	Total Assets		629,533	732,382	815,651	
Fund Balances:						
	Ministry Growth-Open Doors		10,006	9,218	9,063	
	Endowment		203,427	264,452	268,256	
	Capital Maintenance		86,511	71,158	54,570	
	Year-End Gain/Loss Accum		(3,224)	(1,793)	(20,068)	
	Memorial		31,247	22,966	34,971	
	Pastoral Housing		89,219	89,556	89,901	
	Prepaid Pledges		9,965	23,766	31,823	
	Scholarship		33,114	30,459	30,992	
	Seminarian Support		2,471	2,480	2,199	
	LSMA Scholarship		1,470	1,475	1,481	
	Special Initiative & Other		0	0	323	
	Special Gifts		5,328	1,569	787	
Supported Groups						
	Rainbow Place		24,201	67,584	122,510	
	Rainbow Endowment		2,766	2,766	2,916	
	Womens outreach - Sewing		1,229	1,234	1,238	
Dedicated Funds						
	Parking Lot		35,382	35,382	43,156	
	Salary Bank			16,523	61,906	
	Other		89,985	86,937	72,384	
	PACE Funds		6,266	6,663	7,243	
	Total Fund Balances		629,533	732,382	815,651	

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH				
Statements of Income and Expense				
	2016	2017	2017	'17 Budget
	Actual	Budget	Actual	vs. Actual
<u>Income:</u>				
Regular Envelopes	778,387	801,230	777,483	(23,747)
Special Envelopes	17,086	20,900	26,250	5,350
Plate Offering	11,433	12,000	12,768	768
Church School	0	0	0	0
Prior Year	2,400	3,000	310	(2,690)
User Donations	4,729	4,000	5,435	1,435
Special Gifts	1,090	2,000	1,898	(102)
Designated (Thanksgiving)*	0	0	0	0
Funded Staffing		16,523		(16,523)
Gain (Loss) on Stock Sales	(203)	0	22	22
Total Income	814,922	859,653	824,166	(35,487)

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH				
Statements of Income and Expense				
	2016	2017	2017	'17 Budget
Expense:	Actual	Budget	Actual	vs. Actual
Staffing				
Salaries & Housing Allowance	381,700	402,615	443,279	40,664
Soc Sec & Benefits	188,577	217,192	170,473	(46,720)
Staffing Subtotal	570,277	619,807	613,752	(6,056)
Benevolence				
Synod	79,327	80,123	80,123	0
Local Benevolence	2,500	2,500	2,500	0
SCS Designated	0			0
DuPage United	4,400	4,400	4,400	0
ESSE	9,180	9,364	9,364	0
Intern Program	4,451	3,200	8,000	4,800
Benevolence Subtotal	99,858	99,587	104,387	4,800
Property/Operations				
Church Operations	39,106	23,690	23,642	(48)
Utilities	32,086	32,400	31,525	(875)
Maintenance & Repair	19,032	28,100	19,613	(8,487)
Congregational Activities	3,315	3,500	4,028	528
55 N. Park	1,357	2,600	2,536	(64)
Insurance	19,566	17,554	14,974	(2,580)
Property/Operations Subtotal	114,461	107,844	96,318	(11,526)
Programs				
Worship & Music	13,097	14,435	11,777	(2,658)
Education	6,310	7,650	6,773	(877)
Education - High school	8,317	8,780	8,885	105
Witness & Stewardship	350	350	350	0
Service	821	1,200	200	(1,000)
Programs Subtotal	28,895	32,415	27,985	(4,430)
Total Expenses				
	813,492	859,653	842,441	(17,211)
Excess (Deficit)				
	1,431	0	(18,275)	(18,275)

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH				
PROPOSED 2018 BUDGET				
	2017	2017	2018	Change:
	Budget	Actual	Budget	'18 Budget - '17 Actual
<u>Income:</u>				
Regular Envelopes	801,230	777,483	750,000	(27,483)
Special Envelopes	20,900	26,250	22,000	(4,250)
Plate Offering	12,000	12,768	12,000	(768)
Prior Year	3,000	310	500	190
User Donations	4,000	5,435	5,500	65
Special Gifts	2,000	1,898		(1,898)
Try-A-Tithe			4,000	4,000
Funded Staffing	16,523	0		0
Gain (Loss) on Stock Sales	0	22	0	(22)
Total Income	<u>859,653</u>	<u>824,166</u>	<u>794,000</u>	<u>(30,166)</u>

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH					
PROPOSED 2018 BUDGET					
					Change:
	2017	2017	2018		'18 Budget
	Budget	Actual	Budget		- '17Actual
Expense:					
Staffing					
Salaries & Housing Allowance	402,615	443,279	388,646		(54,633)
Soc Sec & Benefits	217,192	170,473	180,105		9,633
Staffing Subtotal	619,807	613,752	568,751		(45,001)
Benevolence					
Synod	80,123	80,123	68,000		(12,123)
Local Benevolence	2,500	2,500	2,000		(500)
DuPage United	4,400	4,400	4,000		(400)
ESSE	9,364	9,364	9,551		187
Intern Program	3,200	8,000	0		(8,000)
Benevolence Subtotal	99,587	104,387	83,551		(20,836)
Debt	0	0	0		0
Property/Operations					
Church Operations	23,690	23,642	23,800		158
Utilities	32,400	31,525	31,200		(325)
Maintenance & Repair	28,100	19,613	28,100		8,487
Congregational Activities	3,500	4,028	6,000		1,972
55 N. Park	2,600	2,536	2,600		64
Insurance	17,554	14,974	17,489		2,515
Property/Operations Subtotal	107,844	96,318	109,189		12,871
Programs					
Worship & Music	14,435	11,777	13,500		1,723
Education	7,650	6,773	6,750		(23)
Education - High school	8,780	8,885	8,780		(105)
Witness & Stewardship	350	350	350		0
Service	1,200	200	200		0
Programs Subtotal	32,415	27,985	29,580		1,595
Total Expenses	859,653	842,441	791,071		(51,370)
Excess (Deficit)	0	(18,275)	2,929		

Annual Report—Addendum

January 23, 2018.

Committee reports not included in the original Annual Report.

Mutual Ministry Committee	Phil Hartweg
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The Faith Mutual Ministry Committee has the pleasant task as the helping silent helping hands for the Faith staff members - in others words, they aid the staff in their personal and professional concerns of dealing with their church work obligations on a day to day basis. These folks act as a sounding board to resolve concerns/problems with the work place - should there be any. All too often the staff is forgotten in the day to day issues that they deal with routinely. The committee members are anonymous helpers for the staff in dealing with everyday situations. The committee functions independent of anyone and reinforces a sense of positiveness.

Endowment Committee	Tom Holz
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Over 20 years ago, inspired by our 50th anniversary, members of our congregation established the Endowment Fund so that, in the words of the fund's founders, "we can share our accumulated resources ... for God's work through the Church".

The Endowment Committee charter asks the committee to consider grant requests in outreach assistance, new or expanded programs, building improvement/maintenance, or debt reduction. Based on this year's numerous requests, it is clear that our congregation is deeply engaged in doing God's work. This year the committee awarded grants totaling \$11,842.94 including \$4,900.00 in outreach and expanding programs and \$6,942.94 in building improvement/maintenance. This year's grants enabled the work of the new Faith Communications Team, Supplies 4 Success, Teen Parent Connection, Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center, a member's ministry to college students, Faith's Quilters, Faith's Anniversary Committee and Concordia Place of Chicago. This year's grant to the property committee included support for fire code upgrades and funds earmarked for parking lot improvement; our building is part of the foundation of our church and an important resource that we share.

The fund remains strong with a current balance of \$268,144.18, and the committee looks forward to prayerfully considering 2018 requests for grants.

Many thanks to Nancy Crawford, Tim Hohulin and Deb Hornell for your dedication and support to this committee.

Faithfully yours,
Tom Holz