



# Living Water

Lutheran Church

## OUR FAITH IN ACTION

## 2016 Annual Report of the Congregation

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

*"To Be and to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ."*

### OUR VISION STATEMENT:

*To create a community which  
Welcomes all people;  
Shares the experience of  
God's grace; Grows in faith;  
and is Sent out into  
the world to care.*



[www.LWLCAZ.org](http://www.LWLCAZ.org)

9201 E. Happy Valley Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85255  
(O) 480.473.8400 | (F) 480.473.2625



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**LWLC 2016 Annual Meeting**

**Will be held on February 5, 2016 @ 9:40am**

**2016 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**

President Lance Jacobson called the meeting to order at 9:50 am on February 14, 2016. A quorum was present.

Pastor Mark Rossman opened the meeting with a prayer.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice President LeeAnn Land thanked and presented gifts to the council members who will be leaving the council because their terms have expired: President Lance Jacobson, Treasurer Kristi Winter, and Member-At-Large Wayne Burrus. President Lance said that it has been a wonderful council to work with. He also thanked Wayne for agreeing to continue to work on existing projects for the coming year.

President Lance noted that ballots had been passed out to elect new members to replace those whose terms have expired. Those nominated were Bob Ulland for President, Lee Stenehjem to move from Secretary to Treasurer, Don Pick for Secretary, and Jenny Dorsch and Phil Pounds as Members-At-Large. LeeAnn Land would remain as Vice President and Barbara Brooks would remain as a Member-At-Large until their respective terms expire at the annual meeting in 2017.

President Lance asked if there were further nominations from the floor. There being none, a motion was made and seconded that nominations be closed. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made that the nominees be elected by unanimous ballot. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

President Lance noted that, according to the church by-laws, as the new President Bob could not also be the council representative on the Call Committee. The council has asked Phil Pounds to take that position. A motion was made and seconded to name Phil as the council representative to the Call Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**Pastor's Report**

Pastor Mark noted that his report was in the 2015 Annual Report. He said it is truly a blessing to be your pastor and that is because of those present.

He appreciates our faith, our ministry and our humor.

But we are at a turning point – a crossroads. We have chosen a Call Committee to find a Youth, Children, and Family Associate Pastor. We have a lot of older people as members. We need to attract more youth, children and families and we need a more balanced demographic ministry.

President Lance added that we greatly appreciate his presence with us, his spirituality, and his leadership in Christ. We have seen tremendous positive changes in the two years he has been with us.

### **President's Report**

President Lance called attention to his report in the Annual Report. He appreciates the help that he, and the church, have received from volunteers and from those willing to come forth generously to help with our finances. Our growth has been approximately 10 % in membership and attendance. We need to remain focused on our mission work here in our area, in our synod and beyond.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Kristi's report is also in the Annual Report. She noted an outside financial audit was completed for which we received a good report. She thanked Janis Fjeld for her work over the past 12 years. We have met our budget and have a number of new things happening.

The Finance Committee met many times over the year and she thanked the members of that committee for their participation: Robert Winter, John Goesling, and Mark Anderson. They met to review the 2016 financial plan. She noted the budget does include an Associate Pastor for one-half year. There is a projected deficit of \$70,000 in the 2016 budget. The Finance Committee recommended the financial plan be adopted and the council has put it forward to the congregation.

Treasurer Kristi says it is time to step up and meet the budget.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the budget. In discussion, Treasurer Kristi said that supplemental donation cards had been sent out and some returned and there were more pledges to collect.

President Lance reported on an anonymous pledge of \$30,000 to help address the budget deficit. Any money which the church raised to help meet the deficit would be matched dollar-for-dollar by the \$30,000 gift up to the \$30,000. Pastor Mark noted that the matching gift was given to challenge the rest of the congregation to come forward.

Treasurer Kristi reported that supplemental donations to make up the budget shortfall have reached \$40,000, including the match, which leaves us about \$20,000 short of utilizing the entire matching pledge. If the congregation approves, the campaign will continue but the council could not move forward with hiring an associate pastor without the approval of the congregation

A motion was made to accept the budget. It was seconded and unanimously passed.

Kris Crow, Chairwoman, was called upon to report on the Children, Youth and Family Ministry Call Committee. The committee had completed the Ministry Report and submitted it to the Synod. It was published in January and the committee met with Bishop Talmadge and Pastor Mark on Monday, February 15, 2016. The next step in the process is to get recommendations from the congregation on possible candidates for our position. We found Pastor Mark from a congregational referral. Anyone that a member believes would be a good associate pastor for the church should be contacted by that member to see if they are willing to consider a call from the church and ask them to have a "ready to move document" on file with the synod. Any candidates should then be submitted to the committee. Two recent seminary graduates have already been submitted to Pastor Mark by Bishop Talmadge. Kris will

continue to give regular updates and she asks that the congregation pray for the Call Committee as the process moves forward.

Kris also reported that she and others had attended a seminar yesterday, February 20, 2016. The main subject was the drop in Sunday School attendance and in the number of confirmands. It is a crisis, but we can take advantage of that opportunity in our neighborhood given the un-churched families and the diverse demographic population. Kris hopes that we will embrace this challenge and opportunity.

President Lance brought up a proposal to amend our constitution to allow seasonal members to be voting members. The congregation had voted on the proposal once before and it was time for the second vote on the amendment. Regarding the proposal, President Lance reported that he had received an email from the ELCA in Chicago which stated in part: "Granting the power to vote to associate members is not possible. A proposed amendment has been sent to synods yesterday. If the church wide assembly approves this summer, the Grand Canyon Synod must adopt it. Since the Grand Canyon Synod has requested it, they would likely accept it." President Lance recommends that no action be taken on the second reading until the next annual meeting when we will know what the guidelines are. The ELCA is creating a voting seasonal membership but such members could not serve on the church council, could not vote by absentee ballot, and could not vote on calling or dismissing a pastor. In addition, for two consecutive months they could not vote at both churches. This would amount to creating a new classification and not amending the current meaning of associate members. A motion was made and seconded to table the proposal. It passed unanimously.

A motion was made that the congregation give special recognition to President Lance for his performance as President of the congregation, a very important role. Pastor Mark stated you can't imagine the amount of work that President Lance has put forth in working with him. President Lance

and Carol went out of their way in helping him get settled and moved into a new position. Pastor Mark would not be the pastor that he has been here without the support of President Lance. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

President Lance called forth existing members and newly elected members of the council. The new council will be composed of President Bob Ulland, Vice President LeeAnn Land, Treasurer Lee Stenehjem, Secretary Don Pick, and Members-at-Large Barbara Brooks, Phil Pounds and Jenny Dorsch. In an installation ceremony, the new council members affirmed their willingness to serve and the congregation affirmed its support of the new council.

President Lance thanked the new council members for their willingness to serve.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lee Stenehjem, Secretary

**2016 STATISTICAL REPORT**

<b>2016 MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>Baptized</b>	<b>Confirmed (15 yrs &amp; older)</b>
As of 1/1/2016	376	330
Members Received by New Member Class	19	19
Members Received by Transfer	5	5
Members Removed by Transfer	-3	-3
Members Removed by Death	-3	-3
Statistical Adjustment*	3	9
<b>Total Membership As of 12.31.2016</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>357</b>

*\*This adjustment is necessary to bring our membership records to a realistic and reconciled balance as of Dec. 31, 2016. Confirmed adjustment due to missing birthdates.*

## AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

2000 - 98	2005 - 208	2010 - 201	2015 - 171
2001 - 111	2006 - 223	2011 - 177	<b>2016 - 167</b>
2002 - 125	2007 - 219	2012 - 160	
2003 - 181	2008 - 230	2013 - 147	
2004 - 207	2009 - 208	2014 - 162	

## BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, WEDDINGS, AND DEATHS 2016

### BAPTISMS - 3

Sophia Jade Isler	2.21.2016
Conrad Lynn Roos	4.10.2016
Amelia Louise McGovern	6.26.2016

### CONFIRMATIONS – 0

### WEDDINGS - 0

### DEATHS - 3

Doreen Pritts	5/22/16
Ray Paul	10/3/16
Lois Olsen	10/27/2016

### NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED - 19

Dave	<b>Schoenbeck</b>	4.30.2016
Ellen	<b>Schoenbeck</b>	4.30.2016
Gordon	<b>Lindert</b>	4.30.2016
Marty	<b>Lindert</b>	4.30.2016
Mitch	<b>Novak</b>	4.30.2016
Marty	<b>Novak</b>	4.30.2016
Eric	<b>Schwandt</b>	4.30.2016
Mike	<b>Kieffer</b>	4.30.2016
Richard	<b>Andersen</b>	6.9.2016
Lynda	<b>Cadden</b>	9.24.2016
Jeanne	<b>Donars</b>	9.24.2016
Scott	<b>Donars</b>	9.24.2016
Debra	<b>Anderson</b>	9.24.2016
Bill	<b>Harris</b>	9.24.2016

Sally	<b>Harris</b>	9.24.2016
Iris	<b>Van</b>	9.24.2016
Eric	<b>Leinweber</b>	9.24.2016
Kim	<b>Leinweber</b>	9.24.2016
Heather	<b>Weisman</b>	9.24.2016
Dennis	<b>Hagstrom</b>	5.30.2016
Pamela	<b>Hagstrom</b>	5.30.2016
Stephen	<b>Hagstrom</b>	5.30.2016
Connie	<b>Hagstrom</b>	5.30.2016
Bradley	<b>Hagstrom</b>	5.30.2016

### CHURCH STAFF 2016

- **Pastor:** Mark Rossman
- **Office/Building Manager:** Andrea Greer
- **Finance Manager:** Lori Clark
- **Sexton:** Jakab Peter
- **Choir Director:** Marcie Donavon
- **Accompanist:** Scott Sims
- **Sunday School and VBS Leaders:** Kris Crow and Janice Moore
- **Jr/Sr High Leader:** Paula Mortensen

### CHURCH COUNCIL 2016

- **President:** Bob Ulland
- **Vice President:** LeeAnn Land
- **Secretary:** Don Pick
- **Treasurer:** Lee Stenehjem
- **Members at Large:** Barbara Brooks, Jenny Dorsch, Phil Pounds

**PASTOR'S REPORT**

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***What a wonderful place . . .*** in the world it is in which we live. We have truly been blessed as people of God. In the years that people have gathered in worship and praise of our Lord at Living Water Church, a great many things have taken place. In each and every one of these happenings God has been very present and visible in the life of Living Water Church.

There is a popular misconception among Christians that blessings from God can only be found in what we perceive to be the positive aspects of life. Nothing could be further from the truth! When we were baptized into the body of Christ, adopted as children of God, we received the promise of God's presence within our lives - not at specific times, but present in our lives always. This is important for us to understand both from a personal standpoint and a corporate standpoint, because God stands with us through thick and thin, through what we perceive to be the bad times and the good. With God's presence in our lives anything and everything is possible.

God has blessed Living Water Church in ways which we may not wholly understand nor clearly see. What we do know is the blessing we have in the people here. We are unique in the level of care and compassion that exists here - compassion that continually rises above contention and strife, a compassion that reaches out to those in need. We have been blessed with a creative and energetic following. The folks who have taken active leadership positions expend an unbelievable amount of time and energy creating and maintaining a ministry that serves all of God's people.

We have been especially blessed by God within controversy and strife. During times of greatest challenge, God's presence is never more strongly felt and the promises of God never more pertinent.

*(Psalm 55:22 NRSV) Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.*

Our history as a congregation has demonstrated time and time again, that even in the very worst of times, God's presence not only sustains the people of God, but greatly enriches the people, too.

***What a glorious ministry . . .*** we have found in this place. While quite often individuals have equated ministry with work, I have found it to be is not a burden, but rather another very real blessing. Ministry is God - at least in the manner in which doing the work of ministry allows people to see the presence of God in their lives. Within ministry what we find is the working of God's Holy Spirit. God's presence leading and guiding the work we do on God's behalf here in the northern Scottsdale area.

The task of ministry is something that we are called to do. Ministry is not something set aside for the man or woman who wears the funny collar or flowing robe on Sunday. Ministry is the work of God's people for God's creation. It is the task of every Christian to see that ministry is done, not just from a perspective of oversight, but in a very real and grounded way. We are called to do the work of the Lord in this time and place.

Being part of the body of Christ, being part of any congregation is not a matter of simply attending worship on a weekly basis. In being an active member of the body of Christ means that we are called to actively serve God in the areas of ministry that are set before each of us. Whether it be a call to teaching, to exceptional stewardship, to outreach, to a sharing ministry, to administration, to Word and Sacrament, to counseling, to areas of congregational service, to visitation, or any other aspect of ministry, we all have been called to serve God in a greater capacity than placing ourselves in a pew on Sunday. We have been called to something greater than to evaluate the work that everyone else accomplishes - we have been called into the service of our Lord - to do God's work - to live a life dedicated in a very visible and profound

way to offer service and honor to the Lord of our lives.

**What a perfect time . . .** to be part of God's family. There has been no other time in history that has been so right to do ministry. We live in a society that is more areligious than ever before. We live in the midst of a community where the unchurched vastly outnumber those who hold a church affiliation. But what there also exists is a great yearning for a greater sense of spirituality, a greater understanding and growth of the individuals' relationship with God. What a perfect time to be part of the church. In the midst of this societal quest, we have the opportunity to reach more people than ever before. Our more fundamental brothers and sisters have begun to explore the vast richness of these struggling folks - we too, ought to be doing the same.

But there's is a catch, of sorts. These folks are not part of organized religion because they see it as being very flawed. They look with a certain amount of disdain and skepticism at church professionals who wave the banner of the Gospel as folks who are out to get something for themselves. It is in the life of the committed, faithful follower that these unchurched individuals have a chance to better understand and see the benefits, blessings and joys that can be found in working with God's church on earth. But for us as a congregation to have the ability to reach out to these folks, we must have people who are willing to share the message of joy and hope that can be found at Living Water. We need to have folks who are willing to step out of their regular routine to talk and walk the story of faith with these searching souls. It is a perfect time, but the catch is that we need folks who are willing to go out and share what Living Water means to them - to share that message at work, to share that message at school, to share that message at the store or on the tennis court, golf course or hiking trail. In doing so, then and only then, will individuals searching for a better way be able to answer the question of "*what will being a member of Living Water do for me?*"

**It is a time to communicate . . .** the message of the love of Christ to people inside and outside the walls of this congregation. It is time to communicate that love in the action of our lives - in that which we do and that which we say to others, and about others. Communication is the key.

But solid communication must go in a couple of different directions. First and foremost, we must communicate the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. As with most things, communication means a couple of different things. This includes communicating the Gospel in what we do, in what we say, in how we act, in how we treat others, and in how we make decisions concerning the world.

In our dealings with others in our church family, it is of vital importance that we communicate with one another. Nothing can be more damaging to the relationships we have with one another than talk that takes place concerning others. In organizations such as ours, talk that criticizes, puts down, or condemns the lives and actions of another can be quite destructive. When this occurs trust is destroyed, and the ability we have to work with one another is brought to ruin. We all must be keenly aware of what we say and how that talk can affect the feelings and lives of another. The people who volunteer their time do their utmost to produce fine programs, to see that the Lord's house is kept in good order and that the ministry groups of this congregation function on a very high level. But as with all things, nothing is perfect, including the work we do. But rather spend time and energy letting people know what was not accomplished in the work they did, would it not be more beneficial if we used that time and energy to assist individuals in the tasks they sent out to do? As members of the body of Christ we have been called to be the ones who build up the community, not tear it down. We all need to be aware of the power we hold in the words we share with others.

**It is a time of challenge . . .** as we look forward to 2017. The challenges before us are not simply financial in nature. The challenges that lie before us are ones there facing all of Christendom. In the midst of distrust, violence and hatred that have so

violated our world, how do we continue to communicate and live the command of Christ to love. Love not just those around us, but love those who are strangers in our lives and in our world.

On the budgetary front, what our Congregation Council will present to us is not an easy budget, but one of challenge. As it was in our previous year, this was not an easy one to be put together and it will not be a budget that will be easily met. But I, along with the Council, firmly believe the presence of God's Holy Spirit in all that is done within this congregation.

The decision of the Council is one that has been Spirit led. The Council at Living Water believes that God does not challenge individuals or organizations toward the unreachable. In fact, we believe that God does not set us to a task without first equipping us with that which we need to see the task accomplished, the goal met.

**As we look back . . .** over 2016 it is obvious that we can see how richly the Lord has blessed us as a congregation. 2016 saw a continuing rise in our membership and new people stepping in to coordinate areas of leadership within the life of Living Water.

This past year as we strove to increase our pastoral presence in the areas of Children, Family and Youth, Living Water the Call Committee has been hard at work with the task of discerning God's call and finding an associate pastor who will help us in those specific areas of ministry, along with other areas of pastoral care and service. And, in the not-too-distant future, we may be seeing in the fruits of their labor coming forth as it appears they may be close to presenting a candidate to us to fill that position.

But not everything is new. During the past year people who have long been working at a variety of tasks have continued their grace filled work. The individuals who serve on our Ministry Teams continue to exhibit the high level of love and caring that has become a hallmark of the life of Living Water Church. The choir and praise band continue

to astound Sunday after Sunday and the educational experience not only for our children, but also for our adults, continues to climb to new heights. And I would be remiss not to mention the myriad of people who work behind the scenes to prepare us for our worship, who pay the bills, who keep things running, who ensure the facility up to date, and those who see that our worship space is tastefully and beautiful decorated.

***The promise of the future . . .*** has seldom been stronger than it is as we enter into 2017. There are a great many challenges that lie ahead, but with everyone working together, there is not a challenge that cannot be met. The Lord has greatly blessed each and every one of us simply in allowing us to be part of His family here at Living Water Church. As we move further into 2017, let us show our gratitude by making this a banner year for Living Water Church. Let us proclaim 2017 as the year of the Lord. Blessings to one and all.

Together in Ministry,  
Mark A. Rossman, Pastor

#### **COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

2016 has been a great year for Living Water. We continue to draw new members, the men's and women's Bible studies are blessings to many, the Sunday adult forum touches many areas of interest, the youth programs have great support, and the list goes on. We do have much for which we can be grateful. Pastor Mark provides inspiring leadership and offers challenges to each of us to use our talents and gifts for God's purpose. Our music leadership adds so much to our worship experience. Andrea and Lori provide excellent support for each of us and the work of the church. Living Water has caring and loving members who not only reach out to one another, but bring that care to many in our neighboring community and to distant parts of our world.

The work of our Call Committee continues. Your prayers for their continued efforts are appreciated. Thank you, Call Committee members, for your



dedication. We look forward to the fruits of this important task.

The support of the congregation makes the work of the council easier. I want to thank each council member for their dedication and service to Living Water.

May we all continue our prayers for the mission and ministry of Living Water that touches so many lives in a positive way.

Bob Ulland,  
Living Water Council President

### **COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

These past four years as Council Vice President have been a blessing in my life. I have had the pleasure of doing God's work with amazing and talented people. Together we weathered some tough storms and overcame interesting challenges, shared many laughs and had fun. Where God has led, we have followed.

I look back at the highlights of the past four years; We moved from an income-based budget to a faith-based budget. We refinanced the church mortgage and caught up on major maintenance issues. We called a Pastor with a unanimous vote. We saw the retirement of very dedicated long-time staff. We hired top-notch talent in our office staff and now have a very big presence in the digital world. We had a successful audit by an external firm. We have a clear picture of the Congregation's goals and aspirations in the areas of Youth and Family Ministry to enable sustainable growth moving forward and are on the road to calling an Associate Pastor to help us realize those needs and goals. The ship is righted and we are sailing with full sails. And I celebrate each of these accomplishments with the entire Congregation at Living Water.

This past year I led the effort to re-work the By-Laws to revise language that conflicted with our Constitution, more clearly define the work of our

Committees, and give us more flexibility in how we conduct our Ministries.

As I term-out as Vice President and leave Council, I know it is good hands and I know that with the continued full support of the Congregation, our Leadership will accomplish greater things to come! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve!

Lee Ann Land, Council Vice President

**MISSION AND MINISTRY TEAMS**



**Caring - Mission Team Leader: Linda Coutts**

- Birthday/Anniversary Cards
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Note Writing
- Prayer Chain
- Prayer Shawl



**Service - Mission Team Leader: Linda Coutts**

- Angel Tree
- Arizona Tax Credit (Habitat for Humanity)
- Box Tops
- Backpacks/School Supplies
- Change for Change (The Hunger Jar)
- ELCA Good Gifts
- ELCA Disaster Relief
- ELCA Malaria Relief
- Grace Lutheran Church (Clothing & Hygiene)
- Grace Lutheran Church Pancake Breakfast
- Habitat for Humanity
- ICM (Interfaith Cooperative Ministry)
- La Sagrada Familia
- LSS-SW Refugee Resettlement
- Lunches for Learning
- Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits
- LWLC Book Drive
- Piece-Makers Mission Quilting
- Tamale Sales
- Thanksgiving Baskets (Vista del Camino)



**Learning - Mission Team Leader: Myrna Wells-Ulland**

- Sunday Morning Adult Forum
- Children's Ministry - SS (3 yrs to 4th gr)
- Children's Ministry - SS - Club 56
- Jr/Sr High/College Age Sunday School
- Confirmation Ministry
- Youth Group for Jr/Sr High/College
- Tuesdays with Ardie
- Men's Breakfast Bible Study
- Women of the ELCA
- Vacation Bible School



**Fellowship - Mission Team Leader: Joan Sprinkle**

- Bridge
- Friday Morning Club
- Happy Valley County Fair
- Living Art
- Saints and Sinners
- Great Gatherings
- Splendid Table
- Sunday Morning Hospitality
- Golf Outing



**Witness - Mission Team Leader: Pastor Mark Rossman**

**New Member Class**

- Website & Social Media
- Marketing
- Demographic Study
- Bike Riders Welcome



**Worship and Music – Mission Team Leader: Pastor Mark Rossman**

- Adult Choir/Praise Band
- Altar Guild
- Choir
- Liturgical Arts
- Praise Band
- Servant Teams
- Special Services
- Technical Services
- Worship and Music



**Giving - Mission Team Leader: Frank Stock**

- Building Fund
- Capital Campaign
- Endowment Giving
- General Fund
- Annual Stewardship Campaign
- Gifts of Appreciated Stock
- Special Gifts/Memorials



**CARING & SERVICE MISSION TEAM**

I would first like to recognize all of our Ministry Team Leaders who gave of their time and talents throughout this year: John and Marilyn Goesling, Doug and Doris Yock, Eric and Sue Brash, Vern and Rita Reamer, Denny Dumler, Patty Sell, Ron and Cindy Ophaug , Penny Kilburn, Don and Patti Pick, and Myrna Ulland. I am surrounded by very caring individuals who demonstrate great passion in their specific areas of ministry. With appreciation we say goodbye to Joyce Bash, Jeri Pounds, Dave Gallimore and LeeAnn Land who have served many years as Ministry Team Leaders and are now pursuing other areas of service and we welcome Doug and Doris Yock, and Ron and Cindy Ophaug.

This year the members of Living Water have generously provided more than \$50,000 in donated and financial support. Our goal is to divide these gifts between local and global ministries. Our financial funds are received through the Hunger Jar, Wednesday night Lenten Services, and other special offerings. Living Water has distributed these funds over the past year to the following: \$3069 to the ELCA World Hunger Fund, \$902 to Vista Del Camino Food Bank, \$359 to Feed My Starving Children, \$1352 for Lunches for Learning, \$141 to LWLC Fellowship Budget , \$400 to LWLC Vacation Bible School Promotional Mailing, \$690.00 to LWLC Sunday School Program, \$350 to Grace Lutheran Church Pancake Breakfast, and \$4852 to ICM (Interfaith Cooperative Ministries). These gifts are outside the budget of the congregation, so additional details of these gifts and other donations are given within each Ministry Team report. Many other expressions of caring and sharing are happening at Living Water without recognition. Our ministry missions are part of our stewardship

of time, talents and financial support that is so abundant at Living Water. We are a blessed congregation and your unselfish giving has touched and blessed many lives.

If any of the above Ministry Mission areas have touched your heart and you would like to be part of this vital group, please contact myself or the leader of the ministry team to express your interests. Last but definitely not least, I want to give a special "Thank You" to Pastor Mark for his leadership, prayers, and guidance.

### CARING

#### **BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CARDS – Friday**

##### **Morning Club**

In honor of Living Water members celebrating their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday or 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and every five years thereafter a poster size greeting card is made, signed by the congregation and presented to the member. Each year between the "Milestone" birthday/anniversary a greeting card is sent. In 2016 - 12 poster cards were created and delivered, 3 were for anniversaries.

The creative hands of the Friday Morning Club began leading this ministry in October 2015, and will complete their handiwork at the end of 2016. Future Birthday and Anniversary milestone events will be recognized during the Church services and/or Connections/Splash. Thank you for a job well done and your creative talents.

#### **NOTE WRITING – Patty Sell**

The note writing ministry sends cards of encouragement to people listed on the Prayer Request page in Connections. The cards are signed, "From your friends at Living Water Lutheran Church" and lets them know that we are praying for them. A total of 60 cards were written and sent in 2016 by the following members: Madeline Donner, Ginny Alexander, Patty Sell, Pam Landon, and Melissa Fresh.

#### **PRAYER CHAIN – Rita Reamer**

In 2016 the Prayer Chain Ministry has been blessed to offer prayer support for members and friends of members whose concerns were brought to our attention. We would like to encourage all members who believe in the power of prayer to join us in the new year.

#### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – Rita Reamer**

In 2016 we have presented 3 shawls to members of the congregation. We have received several new shawls and baby blankets to add to our supply for which we are very grateful. In the weeks after the announcement on Sunday, we have had several new people express an interest in joining us. We feel blessed to contribute to this ministry.

### SERVICE

#### **ANGEL TREE – Linda Coutts**

The Angel Tree has always been an inspirational part of Advent and 2016 was no exception. We kept our angel count to 100 again this year. We were blessed to have our original hand cut wooden Angel ornaments designed by our Sunday School children. The winners of the Angel design were Davis Shelmire and Allison Handley. In addition, we would like to thank Jay Lucas who cut out the ornaments and Lois who decorated them. We would also like to thank a friend of Jay and Lois, Tom Sparkman, who made us a new Angel Tree topper. The benefit of the "angels" on the tree go to families with children whose ages run from 6 months to 18 years. ICM (Interfaith Cooperative Ministry) Food and Clothing Bank was very excited to work with us again this year. Living Water members were asked to spend around \$30.00 on a toy, clothing item, an age appropriate book for our "Angel" and in some cases a pair of shoes or gift cards and place those items in a plain paper bag. How simple! ICM picks up our bags and distributes the gift bags to the chosen families. Even our wooden Angels found a new Christmas tree to call home. For our LWLC members who took 2 Angels, a Wooden Angel was given to them as a special "Thank You!" I would like to thank Patty Sell, Jay

and Lois Lucas, Wayne and Leila Burrus, Larry Coutts, Madeline Donner and a friend of Jill Wehr's, Diane, for their time and talents putting up this year's Angel tree. Our valued contribution for 2016 was approximately \$3000 to \$3500. The \$274 profit from selling the extra "Angel ornaments" will go towards the 2017 Vacation Bible School.

#### **BOX TOPS AND SOUP LABELS FOR EDUCATION— Penny Kilburn**

We have good news and bad news. The bad news is that as of last July Campbell stopped supporting their soup label program. We made a successful push to gather as many soup labels as possible and get them turned in while the program was still viable. The good news is that the Box Tops for Education program is going strong and covers an ever expanding number of products. Each symbol collected means 10 cents for the Navajo Lutheran Mission and those dimes really do add up to dollars quickly when we all participate. So we can still help the Navajo Lutheran Mission by clipping the Box tops symbols and bringing them to church. There will be a presentation in January complete with a list of the current products enrolled in the program. Such a list is also available on the internet if you search Box Tops for Education.

#### **ELCA GOOD GIFTS – Ron and Cindy Ophaug**

It was a wonderful Christmas for those who gave and those who received. The Good Gifts program of the ELCA encourages members and friends to give and receive gifts throughout the year – including farm animals, latrines, micro loans, honey bees, school supplies, energy saving stoves, items to stock a health clinic, starting a new congregation in the ELCA and much more. Living Water is so gracious with their giving each year, and 2016 is no different. We hope to surpass 2015 with many gifts still coming into the church office.

Remember that Good Gifts can be given all year long and for any occasion. Thanks to everyone who participated in this wonderful program.

#### **ELCA WORLD HUNGER – Myrna Ulland**

Living Water participated in the ELCA's "40 Days of Giving" to support World Hunger during Lent 2016. We shared Hunger Facts at each of the Lenten Soup Suppers, 50% of the gifts to the Hunger Jar during Lent was designated to the ELCA World Hunger Program, and on February 28<sup>th</sup> we collected a special "Leap Day" offering to support the ELCA World Hunger Program. Thank you for your generosity in continuing to support this program of our church.

#### **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PANCAKE BREAKFAST – Don and Patti Pick**

In July of 2016, 15 of us were privileged to serve over 300 pancake breakfast meals to the homeless in central Phoenix. The Sunday Living Water served breakfast was the most pancake breakfast's they had served. When a congregation serves they make a donation of \$700 (\$350 from the annual budget and \$350 from the Hunger Jar) to the ministry at Grace Lutheran to help offset the cost of serving the less fortunate of Phoenix. If you have never had the opportunity to be a part of this ministry, then I would encourage and invite you to join us for the next Grace Lutheran pancake breakfast. An announcement of the 2017 Grace Lutheran Sunday pancake breakfast will be made as soon as the dates are confirmed.

#### **GRACE HOMELESS PROJECT – Vern and Rita Reamer**

The Grace Lutheran Congregation is most appreciative of our efforts to aid them in serving the homeless of central Phoenix. They are particularly amazed at how much we try to "fine tune" our giving to their needs. We are so proud of our congregation's giving to those who are less fortunate than we are. Our continuing clothing drive and the collection of hotel/personal cosmetics was a huge success in 2016. Let's keep them coming as we look toward 2017.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – John and Marilyn Goesling**

A Habitat for Humanity house in Glendale was completed in the spring of 2016 and was dedicated in June of 2016. Living Water was one of the congregations of the Northeast Lutheran Coalition, along with the St. Patrick Catholic Community, The Casa, and St Thomas More Catholic Church to sponsor this “build.” Each congregation in the coalition is responsible for both the financial and worker support. John and Marilyn Goesling coordinate these projects for Living Water. This is the 16<sup>th</sup> Habitat House that Living Water has participated in building in the Phoenix area. Many lives have been changed. \$6495 was given by our congregation in 2015 to apply toward the 2016 build.

**HUNGER JAR – LWLC Congregation**

This ministry serves as one of our greatest cash donation vehicles to be used to donate to various organizations locally and internationally. It is amazing what a penny can buy, especially when there is a full jar of them! This year we saw another upward trend in our Hunger Jar offerings. The following organizations received the benefit of your generous donations throughout 2016: ELCA World Hunger Fund, Feed My Starving Children, Vista Del Camino Food Bank, ICM (Interfaith Cooperative Ministry), and Lunches 4 Learning.

**LA SAGRADA FAMILIA LUTHERAN CHURCH - Denny Dumler**

Living Water supports this inner city congregation thru food contributions (grocery cart) collected from members of the congregation. The food and diapers collected are then disbursed to members in need who are served by La Sagrada Familia Lutheran Church.

**LWLC BOOK DRIVE – Eric and Sue Brash**

Living Water conducts an ongoing collection of new and gently used books for babies through adults. These collections are then distributed throughout the Phoenix core area by the Assistance League of Phoenix. Many of these books are chosen by Title 1 Schools K-8 students who are also being given

much-needed school uniforms and shoes. ICM Food and clothing Bank, UMOM new day centers, Desert Mission Clinics clients and Tumbleweed homeless young adults also received appropriate children's and adults' reading materials. Please remember we collect used magazines for adults; and these are appreciated by ICM Food and Clothing Bank clients. The UMOM interdenominational chapel gratefully distributes all our donated religious titles to homeless families. In 2016, the congregation (with tremendous summer support by our Vacation Bible School attendees) gathered 1534 well-received books! We encourage you to please continue to solicit book and magazine donations from family, friends and neighbors. You can contact Sue or Eric Brash with any questions or to arrange a large pick-up. [Suebrash7@gmail.com](mailto:Suebrash7@gmail.com) or 480-816-9486.

**LUNCHES FOR LEARNING – Denny Dumler and Dave Gallimore**

For the past five years we have provided support to two schools in rural Honduras that is utilized to provide food that is prepared and served to elementary age children in the schools. These gifts permit the children to attend school rather than be forced to beg for food and receive no education. The drop-out rate has historically been in the range of 80% during the first six years of their elementary education. In the schools we support, the drop-out level has dropped to under 20%. Funds come from half of the Lenten offerings and individual gifts of members outside the normal budget of our church. Our gifts are approximately \$12,500 per year and the return on the investment is the achievement of literacy for students in these two schools.

Dave Gallimore has served as the leader of this ministry thru his support as an adviser to L4L, a personal trip to Honduras for the graduations in our two schools, and his prayerful and financial support. His direct involvement thru our congregation and his home congregation in Illinois is appreciated and will be missed.

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILT and KIT MINISTRY - Myrna Ulland

### LWR Personal Care Kits

We did not collect and assemble LWR Personal Care Kits in 2016, as we held a school supply drive for ICM in the summer. However, we will once again focus on Personal Care Kits during Lent 2017 thru LWR's Project Promise. Personal Care Kits are shared with people who have lost everything from a natural disaster or life-threatening violence. Give hope through two bars of hand soap, a small bath towel, a toothbrush, comb, and nail clippers. Watch for our promotion!

### Piece-Makers Mission Quilting

In 2016, we continued our mission quilting activity to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). On Valentine's Day, 40 quilts were blessed before delivery to a LWR in-gathering truck in Phoenix. We also made 3 quilts for our 2016 graduating seniors! After a summer hiatus, we resumed our quilting in the autumn and are busy sewing and assembling quilts for the next LWR in-gathering in Phoenix in April 2017. As this ministry grows, we welcome donations of dollars or appropriate cotton fabric for the quilt tops or bottoms. Each quilt needs approximately 3.5 yards for each top and each bottom. The tops are pieced together by individuals and we tie them as a group. Join us anytime! Another opportunity for support is to contribute to the LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund to offset costs for sending our quilts abroad. Each kit costs \$2.25 to ship. You can find information about this ministry at [www.lwr.org/quilts](http://www.lwr.org/quilts).

## REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM – Vern and Rita Reamer

The Refugee Resettlement program had no activity this year, 2016, but we are ready and waiting. Our last family graduated from the program in December of 2015. This year we were asking for a small family and only larger families were coming over for assistance.

## TAMALE SALES – Patty Sell

Each year the ladies of La Sagrada Familia Lutheran Church of Phoenix make tamales to sell in the community to raise money for their church. Living Water has supported their efforts in past years and 2016 was no different. In 2016, members of Living Water pre-ordered 31 dozen tamales at \$20.00 per dozen. A check for \$620 was presented to the ladies of La Sagrada.

## VISTA DEL CAMINO – Doris and Doug Yock

Living Water's participation in the annual Vista del Camino Food Bank and Thanksgiving Meal Program is one way we fight hunger on a local level. Living Water gave generously again in 2016.

Together we provided 35 grocery bags, each containing a complete Thanksgiving meal. We also donated \$625 in cash and \$830 in the form of gift cards, which the Vista del Camino staff will use to purchase additional food for distribution to members of the Scottsdale community who are families or seniors in need, homeless, or otherwise experiencing crisis.

Thank you for your generosity and kindness!



## LEARNING MISSION TEAM

Learning Mission's purpose is to assist all ages, from three years to the third chapter of life, to grow in their faith and relationship with Christ and one another through learning opportunities and experiences. Study of the scriptures is an important part of our faith formation. During 2016, we had continued growth in the number of participants in the Bible studies listed below as well as the Sunday Morning offerings during the

Education Hour for all ages. It is always good to remember that part of a disciple's job description is to study scripture diligently! Thank you to all of the leaders who have been so faithful in their dedication, passion for and involvement with our learning opportunities at Living Water this past year.

### **SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORUM**

During 2016 the Adult Forum continued to provide a wide variety of topics and speakers for learning and spiritual growth. We are very grateful to everyone who presented and to all who attended. We are very pleased with the high level of interest that is consistently shown week after week. We also want to thank the hospitality teams that so faithfully provide coffee and goodies for those attending the forum.

During this past year topics and presenters have included the following –

1. The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Origin of the Bible by Larry Person
2. Making Sense of Suffering, Pain, Grief, Death, and Dying through the Hope of Eternal Life – a series during Lent which included –  
The Spirituality of Pain by Paula Mortensen  
Grief, Death, and Dying by Don Burgess  
The Holy Week Narrative in the Gospel of Luke by Dennis Nelson
3. Creation's Origin and Destiny by Gene Perry and Richard Wehr
4. Paul's Letter to the Philippians by Dennis Nelson
5. Dreams in the Bible by Gene Perry
6. Books of Ruth and Nehemiah by Dennis Nelson
7. Evolution from Creation to New Creation by Gene Perry and Richard Wehr
8. Luther and the Family by Bob Hutson
9. My Neighbor Is Muslim by Richard Andersen

Topics have already been determined and presenters have already been lined up for several Sundays in 2017.

1. On January 15, 22, and 29 Dennis Nelson will tell about his recent pilgrimage to Turkey and Greece to follow the missionary journeys of the apostle Paul
2. During February we will learn about two important ministries of the ELCA – Native American Urban Ministry in Phoenix on February 5  
ELCA World Hunger on February 19
3. During Lent Dennis Nelson will use a video series to help us learn more about some of the people who were involved in the story of our Lord's passion and death
4. After Easter Dennis and Terry Nelson will examine the stories of Jacob, Moses, the Israelites, and Saul of Tarsus as they share from the retreat they led at Spirit in the Desert – "Lessons Learned from Life in the Desert"

In addition during 2016 the Adult Learning Ministries team coordinated and hosted a Saturday morning seminar on February 6 on the book of Revelation taught by Pastor Peter Perry of St. John's Lutheran Church in Glendale. Having specialized in the book of Revelation while receiving his Ph. D. at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Pastor Perry was uniquely qualified to show us how this last book of the Bible is intended to give us "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow."

During 2017 the Adult Learning Ministries team will coordinate and host a Saturday morning seminar on February 11 on limiting memory loss, taught by psychologist Dr. David Helgeson. It is also their intent to offer special times of learning throughout the year on Martin Luther as we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

The Adult Learning Ministries Team is made up Ken Bash, Jenny Dorsch (Congregation Council liaison), Gene Perry, Vern and Rita Reamer, Myrna Ulland, and myself. We are very grateful to Pastor Mark Rossman for regularly attending our meetings and supporting our ministries. I am deeply thankful to the team for their support and involvement, help in



promoting, coordinating, and hosting our events, and unending supply of ideas for presentations and topics.

I would also like to express my appreciation to my wife, Terry Nelson, for serving as “techno person,” finding, creating, and showing images and maps which enhance the learning experience.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis Nelson

### **CHILDRENS' FAITH FORMATION - SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The Sunday School is in its tenth year of the Rotation Model. In this model, the same Bible story is taught for multiple weeks with the children rotating through different workshops. The workshops use a variety of teaching methods including videos, cooking, drama, art, storytelling, games, science, puppetry, computer workshops and music. Guest teachers from the congregation need only commit to one Sunday to share their special talents with our children. After kicking off the year with a Rally Day celebration on September 4, we launched our 2016-2017 Sunday School year with the theme “Creation and Beyond – God’s Beautiful World.” The activities included watching part of the video series “What’s in the Bible?”, making Creation Station appetizers and Creature Creations, participating in a Scavenger Hunt, making Creation Word Posters, using Creation story stones, playing Creation Bingo, building a self-watering planter and watching clips from the films “Wall-e” and “Over the Hedge.” Each lesson focused on the Creation story from Genesis chapter 1, as well as our role in caring for and protecting God’s beautiful world.

We concluded the year with the Children’s Christmas Worship Service on December 18 using a program entitled “Come to Bethlehem and See.” This service was based on a dramatic Christmas program published by Abingdon Press. Kris Crow and Janice Moore edited the program and added additional music, poems and Bible passages. The Sunday School, Club 56 and Confirmation students

participated in the service. The high school youth served as ushers/greeters and communion servers. It was great to see the Chrismons, representing 20 different Christian symbols created by the children in 2013, adorning the Christmas Tree in the sanctuary once again!

Throughout the year we provided special seasonal opportunities for learning through the annual Advent and Lenten Fairs.

Respectfully submitted by Kris Crow and Janice Moore, Volunteer Co-Leaders, Sunday School and VBS

### **CHILDRENS' FAITH FORMATION - CLUB 56**

We give thanks to Kim Fordiani who led Club 56 until September of this year. Club 56 is currently involved in a series entitled “Grapple”. The series challenges the attendees to consider difficult questions ranging from “Where did God come from” to “how do I say no when everyone else says yes”. We are building friendships and identifying service opportunities. The students are challenged to share insights and doubts with others while building friendships with the other attendees. We enjoy the facilities in Club 56 room that was updated this past year.

Denny Dumler

### **JR/SR HIGH/COLLEGE SUNDAY SCHOOL- Paula Mortensen**

#### **CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation is a process of education intended to help our students better understand the depth and reality of God's promises given to them at their Baptism. In this time they begin to grasp on an ever-maturing level their Baptismal call to live and serve in Christian community. In the two years of Confirmation students participate in a series of classes, lectures, projects, meetings, and worship services that help the student better comprehend the magnitude of the promises of God, and the depth of the promises they in turn will be asked to make. Confirmation is not a requirement, it is not

a sacrament, nor is it a religious rite. Confirmation is the process that leads people to understand what they are promising their lives too, and what God has already promised to them.

The conclusion of Confirmation is marked by the service of Affirmation of Baptism. It is at this service that the students publicly proclaim their faith. It is during the service of Affirmation of Faith that the individual pledges a life of faithfulness to our Lord. This is the point and time in their lives that they claim they will now take on and accept the promises made on their behalf by their parents and godparents.

There are currently 4 students who are using the *Here I Stand* curriculum developed by the Augsburg Fortress publishing house combined with reading *The Story* a series of the essential stories of the Bible. This year classes are incorporated with our Jr/Sr High Sunday School.

Paula Mortensen

### **TUESDAYS WOMEN'S STUDY**

The Tuesday Women's Study continues in a weekly format, originating back in the fall of 2011 with a morning study, and adding an evening opportunity in the fall of 2012. We give thanks to Ardie Senft, our retired Diaconal Minister, who led our women's study until the spring of 2016. We have a steady core of women attending, with participation averaging 15-20 each week. The study topics vary, from video-based series to book study to the monthly Bible study from the *Gather* magazine. Tuesday Women's Study is open to all women, members and non, and prior experience with Bible study is not required. Come and learn with us!

We grow in our knowledge of scripture and in friendship and support with the depth of the prayers and conversation that occurs each week. In 2016, we completed a video series on "Soul Keeping" by John Ortberg. Following that, we explored in depth "Joseph - The Journey to Forgiveness," a video series by Melissa Spoelstra. In the spring we departed from the video series

learning and tackled a book study, "Accidental Saints," by Nadia Bolz Weber. September brought us to a video series study on decision making, "The Best Yes," from the work of Lysa TerKeurst. And we've now incorporated the monthly *Gather* Bible study into our Tuesday rotation. We're continuing the tradition of a periodic movie night with snacks and an appropriate movie. Our movie night is open to everyone.

In January 2017 we'll begin a Max Lucado 7-week series called "Grace - More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine."

In addition to studying together we continue to encourage the Tuesday Women's Study to be involved with hands-on service projects. In December, we again joined together to make another Christmas special for two adult women from Vista Del Camino's adopt-a-senior holiday program.

Myrna Wells-Ulland

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY - Pastor Mark**

The Men's Breakfast Bible Study meets at 7:30 AM on Thursday of each week at the Soul Café. Each meeting averages 12-15 attendees focused on reflecting and studying the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. This gathering has been blessed with the presence of men from other congregations actively participating in the discussion.

In December, the men were challenged by the Tuesday Women's Study group to help make Christmas special for seniors from Vista Del Camino's adopt-a-senior holiday program, and they rose to the challenge!

### **WELCA – WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

Living Water Lutheran continues with an active Women of the ELCA unit. As such, all women from Living Water who are involved with ministry in any way are participants of Women of the ELCA, the broad women's ministry organization of our ELCA. Every woman does not need to be involved in

every activity. Some choose only study. Others want to be kit or quilt makers, or knit prayer shawls or make dresses for children in Africa or Haiti. Some choose involvement in advocacy and justice issues, such as Human Trafficking or Native American ministry. Some want congregational service work. Some contribute financially through offerings or the Thankoffering. Some will do all of these and more. All of these affirm involvement and activity in the Women of the ELCA at Living Water Lutheran!

We gather to grow in faith and live our faith through ministry and action. In 2016, we continued our monthly Women of the ELCA Bible study from the *Gather* magazine (Sept-May) and in September, we incorporated our monthly study into the Tuesday Women's Study weekly rotation. Now, women only need to remember that Tuesday is Women's Bible Study day/evening!

On October 15, our Northeast Valley conference held a retreat at Resurrection Lutheran in Scottsdale, attended by 63 women from our NE Valley churches and beyond. The day included inspiring speakers, great food and fellowship, and interactive Advent prayer stations. We also contributed non-violent toys and gift cards to support foster children in LSS-SW programs.

In early November, the Grand Canyon Synod Women's biennial convention was held in Las Vegas. Many of our women from Living Water contributed items to supply "Matthew Kits" to the homeless in the Las Vegas area. 130 women from across our Grand Canyon synod were in attendance and Myrna Wells-Ulland was elected president for a two-year term.

In November, women from Living Water again supported our annual "Thankoffering." More than \$300 was received to support ministries of Women of the ELCA across our entire church wide organization. Thank you!

All women are invited to register for the Women of the ELCA's 10th Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis

in mid-July 2017. You can find all the information needed from this website: [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org). 2017 is the 30th anniversary of Women of the ELCA and the theme for the Triennial Gathering is "All Anew." When you register, remember to use the synod code "2D." The Triennial Gathering (held every 3 years) is an inspiring event for the women of our church, and their friends. And Minneapolis is a wonderful city to visit in the heat of the Arizona summer!

There's a place for all women at Living Water in the mission and ministry of Women of the ELCA. Chat with me, or visit [grandcanyonwomen.org](http://grandcanyonwomen.org) and [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org) to stay connected with what's happening in our NE Valley conference, our synod and beyond.

Myrna Wells-Ulland

#### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)**

Another successful Vacation Bible School program is in the books! During the week of June 13 we explored the theme of "Cave Quest – Following Jesus, The Light of the World." Our highlights included amazing dramas, awesome snacks, energy burning games, creative crafts and science experiments, videos of real kids following Jesus in their lives, and fun music. The grand finale was the Celebration Worship Service led by the children and youth on Sunday, June 19.

The VBS Leadership Team of Kris Crow, Janice Moore, Pastor Mark, Paula Mortensen, Myrna Ulland and Julie Ann Walker recruited 47 volunteers (including 10 of our youth) to host 21 children from the congregation and community.

Thanks to very generous donations from our members, we were able to provide t-shirts for the children, host a VBS Festival at the conclusion of the final day, purchase a pipe and drape system to more easily construct our sets in the sanctuary, and buy a Book Drive Banner to promote our Mission Project for the next several years. In addition, we tested advertising using social media platforms to reach beyond our church community.

The feedback from the children, parents and volunteers was overwhelmingly positive!

A huge thank you to our dedicated volunteers and all of the friends of VBS who generously donated their time and talents, money, food, and supplies. Your support made our planning and execution so much easier!

Respectfully submitted by Kris Crow and Janice Moore, Volunteer Co-Leaders, VBS and Sunday School



### **FELLOWSHIP MISSION TEAM**

The Fellowship Program's objective is to strengthen fellowship among congregation members, spiritually and socially, and to integrate new members into the life of the congregation in order to build mutual cooperation, trust, and enjoyment. While ministry teams in general at Living Water offer fellowship benefits, Fellowship Program teams focus on providing a range of fellowship opportunities in the form of large-scale events and smaller groups of people with a common interest or purpose, by endeavoring to create a welcoming and hospitable atmosphere for visitors and members alike on Sunday mornings and other occasions

Members of the congregation are encouraged to become involved in ongoing efforts to expand Living Water's Fellowship Program. Since smaller scale fellowship groups, such as the Bridge Group, Living Arts and Lefse Making are generally oriented toward congregation members' interests, the line-up of these interest-based activities tends to shift. For example: currently dormant Fellowship Program small groups include Little Flock Fellowship and Heavenly Hikers. Reinstatement of these and other groups, or the creation of new

endeavors, is always an option if volunteers step forward to organize activities that will enhance fellowship within the Living Water community. An array of hard-working ministry teams spearheaded efforts to offer a variety of fellowship opportunities in 2016. Descriptions of their activities appear below:

Program Leader: Joan Sprinkle

### **BRIDGE GROUP**

The Living Water Bridge Group meets on the third Friday of each month (except December) at members' homes for an evening of fellowship and social bridge. This 10-year-old fellowship group introduced a series of short refresher lessons in the spring. The group has 14 members and a growing list of substitute players. It hopes to welcome additional bridge players in 2017. As usual, the first meeting of the year will feature a potluck to celebrate the group's anniversary. The group also enjoys a BBQ potluck in the fall.

Team Leaders: Jill and Richard Wehr

### **FRIDAY MORNING CLUB**

Carry out the duties that are assigned to us by the office; i.e. assemble Sunday bulletins, check and organize the guest cards and envelopes in the chair pockets, keep the kitchen and Narthex tidy, assist the office with special bulletins during church holidays, and assemble candles for the Christmas services. Periodically, we clean out and restock the children's bags. The birthday and anniversary posters were also made by the FMC.

Team Leader: Julie Ann Walker

### **GOLF OUTING**

The Golf Outing was held on November 20, 2016 at Tatum Ranch Golf Club. In recent years, we have developed the outing/dinner as a fellowship gathering rather than a golf only event. Therefore, we continue to promote the day for non-golfers as well as golfers. This year we had a slight increase in both golfers and non-golfers from previous years. Despite the slightly inclement weather, most folks were able to play at least nine holes, and dinner following about 5:00pm. It was attended by approximately 55 folks. Donations,

which were collected via “Mulligans” contributions by the golfers and non-golfers alike, and were designated for Vista Del Camino, the LWLC Thanksgiving charity. This surpassed last year’s gift by about 50% totaling \$450.

For next year, we hope to increase attendance and develop a few new ideas for the 2017 event. We have not utilized any LWLC budget in the last years and don’t anticipate needing any funds for 2017.  
Team Leaders: Frank Stock & Julie Ann Walker

### **GREAT GATHERINGS**

The Great Gathering fellowship group sponsored several events during 2016. Our first outing in February was to ASU Marston Exploration Theater. We saw an interesting 3-D virtual space journey starting at the earth and traveling to the edge of the universe. Afterwards we went to Famous Dave’s BBQ for dinner.

In May we had our annual congregational picnic at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park. Several games were set up for people to play, tours of the model railroad building were given, and hamburgers and hot dogs were grilled. After dinner we listened to the park’s band concert.

During the summer, Don Pick organized an outing to a Diamondback baseball game.

When our winter visitors came back in the fall, we sponsored a potluck and Bunco party at church. Everyone was busy announcing their buncos and the fuzzy dice was passed around frequently. Shirley Koch gave out prizes for various accomplishments.

Our year concluded with our popular Advent Party at Bob and Myrna Ulland’s house. We had many great appetizers and desserts. It was a great evening of fellowship. The Ullands then hosted four days of lefse making which is a popular Norwegian tradition enjoyed by many.

Team Leaders: Gene & Dee Eilers

### **HAPPY VALLEY COUNTY FAIR**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Happy Valley County Fair on Saturday, April 2, 2016, featured the theme “South of the Border” to connect with our Southwestern environment. Planning that began several months in advance resulted in another well-orchestrated event offering fun, food and games for young and old alike. Once again, the advanced PR efforts, including T-shirts decorated by Sunday School children, helped boost attendance. With beautiful weather and a dedicated team of volunteers working together – in the kitchen, on the midway, and elsewhere – this family-oriented fellowship event was a fiesta to be remembered. The potluck dinner featured several tasty variations of chili, plus confections and pies. A variety of games organized by the youth of our church and their leaders engaged all the fair-goers. Participants enjoyed the music from a strolling Mariachi band to enhance the fiesta-like atmosphere. The fair’s traditional pie and confection competitions and auction set new records! We celebrated the event which raised slightly more than \$1,700 to benefit the ELCA Hunger program and our Sunday School. While the raising of funds is a serendipity of our opportunity to enjoy fellowship with one another, it is an indication of how we have been blessed as we proceed with this event each year. Leadership of this event has been passed on to Robert & Kristi Winters.

Team Leaders: Larry & Linda Coutts

### **LIVING ART**

Develop our love of art from a Christian perspective. Art that gives glory to God; that praises God; that gives us the time to relate personally to God through crafts, painting, drawing, sculpting, making banners and other art such as poetry, writing and photography. By working together, we can gain inspiration. Focus on setting aside time for creativity and appreciation of the beautiful world God created for us.

Team Leader: Leila Burrus

**SAINTS & SINNERS**

To build a stronger and more vibrant church body by establishing and nurturing camaraderie among church members, visitors and interested adults. The objective is to promote a spirit of welcoming and belonging within our caring community. We strive to get visitors and new members together with existing members to foster a feeling of inclusion and to provide a one-on-one personal experience in a small group setting. Couples and singles are welcome.

The "Saints and Sinners" Kick-off function was held on January 16, 2016 with 47 attendees. Following this, 37 couples and 13 singles totaling 87 people joined "Saints and Sinners" Fellowship.

Participants were organized into seven groups for a February function and another seven groups for a March function. Each group had 8-12 participants led by a Captain who is responsible for planning and hosting the activity.

Team Leaders: Wayne & Leila Burrus; Lee & Sue Stenehjem

**SPLENDID TABLE**

The Splendid Table team has had a very busy year coordinating meals for fellowship that included Lenten Soup Suppers, New Member Dinners, Easter Brunch, Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, Spring and Fall Leadership Retreats, Doreen Pritts' Musical Tribute and the Christmas Cantata Brunch. These events provide the opportunity for wonderful fellowship among our members and guests. We especially would like to thank the members of the congregation who continually support our efforts with their generous food contributions and helping hands throughout this Ministry. Team Leaders: Ginny Alexander, Julie Ann Walker & Kristi Winter

**SUNDAY MORNING HOSPITALITY**

This ministry team coordinates refreshments on Sunday mornings to provide fellowship opportunities for members and visitors. Hospitality refreshments, consisting of donuts and other treats plus coffee and juice, are served between services.

This team also arranges for cakes and cookies to celebrate Confirmation, Graduation, and other special occasions. Free-will offerings help defray hospitality expenses. The core team in charge of hospitality welcomes volunteers from throughout the congregation who are willing to serve on a monthly, quarterly or occasional basis.

Team Leaders: Melissa Fresh & Carol Gasser

**WITNESS MISSION TEAM**

Our witness team is comprised of the following functions: Evangelism, Marketing, Serving our Community, Outreach, Advertising and Sharing the Gospel are all descriptors that relate to supporting LWLC's Purpose Statement... "To Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ."

A large push has been seen this past year in the efforts of our Marketing Team. Team members include Deb Bash and Don Pick with our Bike Rider Welcome, Kris Crow and her work with our demographics, Andrea Greer as our social media guru, Lee and Sue Stenehjem and Brad and Diana Thompson as our Marketing Team, Joyce Bash and her tireless work with our visitors and the Friday Morning Club making sure we have the gifts we need for those visitors.

**WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA** - Andrea Greer

2016 continues to be a great year seeing results due to our website and social media. We have received great feedback on our website re-design. We have added online giving and our social media feeds through our website on a page called "social stream". We continue to send Monday e-blast called "This Week at Living Water" to keep members up-to-date on church events, etc.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS**

This past year there were two New Member Informational Sessions. These sessions gave the participants a chance to get to know one another a bit better, learn more about Living Water and its history, and to discover how each might fit into the ministry work which is done here. After taking the time to share with one another life and faith experiences, the groups took a look into gaining a greater understanding of what spiritual gifts each might hold within their lives. From there we discussed how those gifts might be used to best serve God as a member of Living Water. Each session then closed with a wonderful meal, provided by the Splendid Table Team, with the leadership of the congregation, affording us the time to get to know one another on a deeper level.

**WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY**

The Worship and Music Ministry Team meets as needed – in part or as a whole - to discuss and plan worship and music opportunities at Living Water and supports the Pastor however we can. Our team includes Pastor Mark Rossman, Marcie Donavon, Scott Sims, Denny Dumler, Sheila Fankhauser, Terry Nelson, Jan Johnson Marilyn Narker and Stephen Page. A special note of thanks needs to be extended to Leila Burrus and Penny Kilburn for their talented and faithful service in Liturgical Arts and Special Services, respectively. Since they have relinquished their duties in these areas it is truly important to recognize their wonderful work over the years.

**ADULT CHOIR/PRAISE BAND**

The Adult Choir and Praise Band, under the direction of Marcie Donavon and Scott Sims, provide strong musical leadership for our worship

services. Our Music Ministry's mission, "to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ through service in music ministry" is alive and well. God is indeed good! Our Adult Choir has grown this past year to include 34 regular singers and another handful of "sometimes" singers, but there is always room for more! The choir continues to provide inspiring anthems and special music themed to enhance our liturgical worship. This past October, the choir was blessed to present a beautiful musical tribute for Doreen Pritts. And, our annual choir Christmas cantata had a record number of participants! Our Praise Band – with Jenny Dorsch, Marcie Donavon, Nathan Fjeld, Dave Dugwyler, and Scott Sims – joyfully leads our contemporary worship with vibrant enthusiasm. We are so grateful for the time, talent, and dedication that the choir and praise band members have demonstrated in leading worship each week, and we are blessed to have such a vibrant music ministry here at Living Water!

**ALTAR GUILD**

The Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the altar for all church services. This includes setting the table for Communion and maintenance of linens and candles. We take care of our duties on a rotating basis. We have a person for each service on each Sunday of the month. We currently have 1 opening at the 11:00 service. The Sacristan for each service also serves as the runner during communion (replacing trays of wine and juice as they are emptied) and communes Pastor Mark and assists him in communing the other servers. Our current members are Joyce Bash (who makes the flatbread), Carolyn Stock, Sheila Fankhauser, Karen Syversen, Penny Kilburn, Patty Sell, Jenny Dorsch and Janis Fjeld. Sheila Fankhauser and Denny Dumler are the leaders. If you are interested in serving on the altar guild, please see Denny or Sheila.

**LITURGICAL ARTS**

Our mission statement is to enhance the environment of the church campus with visual arts to help congregants glorify God through their worship experiences and to educate parishioners

about the meanings of liturgical colors, symbols and seasons. This year we did some new things to help accomplish these goals. We created flames and doves for Pentecost Sunday, we purchased new green banners and new green fabric for our hanging drapes for the long Pentecost season, and we purchased and created 3 metal crosses which can be repositioned as needed. Thanks so much to Tracy Paul for attaching the two purchased crosses to stands and creating a third cross for the ensemble. These crosses have been powder coated for their protection and for use outside. We also moved and reorganized our materials for easier access. A special thank you goes to Leila Burrus for her years as leader of Liturgical Arts. Upon her resignation after Pentecost, Pastor Mark asked me to be director. A special thanks to Sue Stenehjem and Tracy Paul who have helped with this transition. Please contact me if you would like to be on our Liturgical Arts team.

In His Service, Terry Nelson

### **SERVANT TEAMS**

The SERVANT TEAM LEADERS fill a tremendous role at Living Water Church. They are to serve and lead, and oversee the many duties before, during, and after our two worship services on Sunday. We try to involve as many of our year around worshipers and snowbirds that winter here from fall to spring.

We also make every effort to include our younger people, Jr. and Sr. High youth, to participate in the variety of duties of servants. They show excitement and we are excited to have them serve. We have 8 worship leaders or couples that are assigned to Sunday of the month to lead.

Their leadership duties include overseeing and directing the servants for a particular duty on the signup sheets located on the circular kiosk in the narthex ; empty spots are up to the leaders to fill. If they cannot be present for their assigned Sunday, they are to trade with another leader and inform Andrea.

Greeting, ushering, assisting with communion, and finding children or others to hold the communion

baskets are the mainstays of a worship service. Should there be a baptism, Reception of New Members, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Lent and Easter, leaders are asked to be prepared to serve.

Each leader is trained, insightful, and capable in assisting with emergencies, babysitting needs, directions to the bathroom area, location of the educational building, any other pertinent information.

At the beginning of each service, a water bottle is given to first time visitors with our church home information tucked inside.

A beautiful bell has been purchased for servants to ring in our courtyard prior to the beginning of each service. The bell has a wonderful welcoming sound to remind those in attendance that our worship service is about to begin.

All leaders are asked to mentor those that could possibly fill a leadership role and build potential leaders for the future.

Our leaders for 2016:

*Bob Ulland, Gene and Dee Eilers, Don and Patti Pick, Lee and Sue Stenehjem, Darryl and Tana Harlan, Denny Dumler, Deb Bash, and DJ and Jan Johnson.*

Respectfully,  
Jan and DJ Johnson

### **SPECIAL SERVICES**

The Special Services Ministry facilitates two Church Services: Baptisms and Funeral / Memorial.

There were three Baptisms in 2016. Each child received a hand crafted Faith Chest with instructions for adding to it and using it as the child grows, a handmade baby blanket or cross (depending on the age of the child) a book, a candle and certificates for both the child and the sponsors. We are deeply grateful to Jay Lucas for the beautiful Faith Chests, to the Prayer shawl



Ministry for the lovely baby blankets and to Barbara Brooks for the delightfully colorful crosses. There was one funeral in 2016. The goal of the Special Services Ministry is to relieve the family of some of the planning burden while helping at the services and providing light refreshments afterward ( if desired) to encourage the community that has gathered to engage in fellowship. We are blessed that so many members of Living Water Lutheran Church contribute generously of their time and talents to make these events a blessing to the families.

Marilyn Nartker, Rita Reamer, Judy Tornowske, and Nancy Manseth



### **GIVING MISSION TEAM**

#### **STEWARDSHIP - LARRY COUTTS**

The Stewardship Program for 2016 culminated with Consecration Sunday on November 6, 2016. This included the completion and submittal of “Estimate of Giving Cards “ by members as well as a luncheon held after the second service. The luncheon was attended by approximately 100 people on a sunny afternoon. The success of the campaign can be measured by some of the highlights listed below;

- A total of 87 giving units completed “Estimate of Giving Cards” committing a total of \$351,127
- A total of 52 of those giving units increased their financial commitment above their last year’s amount
- Based on last year’s records it is expected that approximately \$93,000 will be received during the year from people who have consistent giving patterns , but whom did not return pledge cards.

- Based on average total of loose offerings, approximately \$16000 can be expected from that source
- Church income from sources such as interest, rentals, and fees is \$13000
- Based on these numbers, anticipated income for 2017 is approximately \$473,000 which is approximately a 13% increase in total giving above last year

These results exceeded this year’s goals and provide support to the Council to proceed with recent initiatives such as the call of an Associate Pastor. Subsequent to Consecration Sunday several meetings have taken place by the committee to address lessons learned from this year’s program as well as other model stewardship programs which may be considered as a guideline in the future.

#### **ENDOWMENT - ROBERT WINTER**

During 2016, the committee met a couple of times to assess the status of the “Endowment Program” as it exists at LWLC and to establish some guidelines and set some direction for 2017 and future years. In order to not interfere with other campaigns being conducted, it was determined to address the program early in 2017 via educational programs with membership to (1) identify the charter and existence of the “Endowment Program” at LWLC (2) address methods of funding and implementing an endowment program by LWLC members. These will most likely be conducted in group meetings such as “adult forum” with follow up during individual family meetings as deemed necessary .

**LIVING WATER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
GENERAL FUND INCOME STATEMENT  
December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015**

	<u>12/31/2016</u>	<u>12/31/2015</u>
<b>INCOME:</b>		
<b>GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS:</b>		
Pledged Offerings	311,137	\$ 318,931
Non-pledged Offerings	118,683	71,754
Loose Plate Offerings	13,912	15,720
Total General Fund Offerings	<u>443,732</u>	<u>406,405</u>
<b>OTHER INCOME:</b>		
Facilities Use Income	4,809	4,059
Flowers	2,559	2,306
Vacation Bible School	595	595
Other Income	8,837	4,945
Investment Income	424	462
Total Other Income	<u>17,224</u>	<u>12,367</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	460,956	418,772
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Personnel	260,969	271,241
Call Expense	744	-
Worship & Music Ministry	10,736	11,089
Benevolence	31,293	32,940
Care & Service	414	889
Discipleship & Growth Min	5,109	5,454
Stewardship Ministry	1,810	2,199
Fellowship Ministry	3,418	2,647
Education Ministry	3,760	4,208
Facilities	73,192	53,674
Administration	35,207	45,852
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>426,652</u>	<u>430,193</u>
<b>Addition (Subtraction) to Fund Balance</b>	<u>\$ 34,304</u>	<u>\$ (11,421)</u>

**LIVING WATER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BALANCE SHEET**

December 31, 2016 & December 31, 2015

<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>	<b><u>12/31/2016</u></b>	<b><u>12/31/2015</u></b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash - General Fund	\$ 80,520	\$ 52,926
Cash - Building Fund	178,351	161,610
Cash - Savings (MIF)	29,820	42,488
Cash - Endowment Fund	983	983
Cash - Restricted	96,171	65,807
Prepaid Expenses	6,165	3,829
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 392,010</b>	<b>\$ 327,643</b>
 <b><u>FIXED ASSETS</u></b>		
Land	\$ 266,534	\$ 266,534
Buildings	3,150,363	3,150,363
Furniture and Equipment	172,779	172,779
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 3,589,676</b>	<b>\$ 3,589,676</b>
 <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	 <b>\$ 3,981,686</b>	 <b>\$ 3,917,319</b>
 <b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	7,601	6,293
Interest Payable	4,880	5,011
Prepaid pledges	12,500	13,750
Payroll Payables	5,712	14,066
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 30,693</b>	<b>\$ 39,120</b>
<b>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</b>		
Loan Payable - MIF	1,392,799	1,430,386
 <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	 <b>\$ 1,423,492</b>	 <b>\$ 1,469,506</b>
 <b><u>FUND BALANCES</u></b>		
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		
General Fund	29,084	18,307
Hunger Jar Fund	342	723
Contingency Fund	20,042	42,404
Youth Gathering Fund	2,375	2,365
Assoc. Pastor Fund	22,320	-
LWLC Maint. Fund	20,000	-
Endowment Fund	2,008	2,007
<b>TTL RES. FUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 96,171</b>	<b>\$ 65,806</b>
 <b>FUND BALANCE</b>	 <b>\$ 2,462,023</b>	 <b>\$ 2,382,007</b>
 <b>TOTAL LIAB. &amp; FUND BAL.</b>	 <b>\$ 3,981,686</b>	 <b>\$ 3,917,319</b>

**LIVING WATER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BUILDING FUND INCOME STATEMENT  
December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015**

	<u>12/31/2016</u>	<u>12/31/2015</u>
<b>INCOME:</b>		
<b>OFFERINGS</b>		
Pledged Offerings	\$ 91,941	\$ 53,362
Non-pledged Offerings	<u>21,205</u>	<u>5,278</u>
Total Offerings	113,146	58,640
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
Interest Income	893	1,528
Investment Income	<u>-</u>	<u>(43)</u>
Total Other Income	893	1,485
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	114,039	60,125
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Building R & M	-	6,100
Interest Expense - MIF	<u>58,329</u>	<u>59,691</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	58,329	65,791
<b>ADDITION (SUBTRACTION) TO FUND BALANCE</b>	<u>\$ 55,710</u>	<u>\$ (5,666)</u>

**LIVING WATER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**RESTRICTED GIFTS**  
December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>RESTRICTED GIFTS RECEIVED</b>		
General Fund	\$ 63,299	\$ 131,667
Contingency Fund	425	32,113
Hunger Jar Fund	1,561	2,290
Youth Gathering Fund	10	8,425
Assoc. Pastor Fund	22,320	-
LWLC Maint. Fund	-	-
Endowment Fund	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL GIFTS RECEIVED</b>	<b>87,615</b>	<b>174,496</b>
 <b>RESTRICTED GIFTS RELEASED</b>		
General Fund	41,506	151,832
Contingency Fund*	23,581	-
Hunger Jar Fund	2,079	1,750
Youth Gathering Fund	-	6,060
Endowment Fund	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL GIFTS RELEASED</b>	<b>67,166</b>	<b>159,642</b>
 <b>NET INCR (DECR) IN RESTRICTED GIFTS</b>	 <b>\$ 20,449</b>	 <b>\$ 14,854</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

\*Amount represents a transfer from the Contingency Fund to the Restricted General Fund due to the beginning or completion of projects for which funds were restricted.

**LIVING WATER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2017 Plan for Financial Ministry**

	2017 Financial Ministry Plan	2016 Actual	2016 Financial Ministry Plan
<b>INCOME:</b>			
Pledged Offerings	\$ 330,000	\$ 311,137	\$ 312,800
Non-Pledged Offerings	95,000	118,683	72,000
Loose Offerings	16,000	13,912	16,000
Total Offerings	<u>441,000</u>	<u>443,732</u>	<u>400,800</u>
Transfers from Restricted GF**	70,340	-	65,000
Other Income	9,500	17,224	12,500
Total Other Income	<u>79,840</u>	<u>17,224</u>	<u>77,500</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 520,840</b>	<b>\$ 460,956</b>	<b>\$ 478,300</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Personnel *	353,000	260,969	320,000
Transition/Call Expenses	4,200	744	5,000
Worship	12,900	10,736	12,500
Benevolence - Synod	33,000	30,000	30,000
Benevolence - Other	1,500	1,293	1,500
Christian Education	6,600	3,760	5,700
Discipleship & Growth	6,000	5,109	6,500
Stewardship	2,000	1,810	2,200
Care/Service Ministries	600	414	500
Parish Health	-	-	400
Fellowship	3,900	3,418	3,000
Facilities	61,000	73,192	57,000
Administration	<u>35,500</u>	<u>35,207</u>	<u>37,300</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 520,200</b>	<b>\$ 426,652</b>	<b>\$ 481,600</b>
<b>ADDITION (SUBTRACTION) TO FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 640</b>	<b>\$ 34,304</b>	<b>\$ (3,300)</b>

\*(2017 - Includes assoc. pastor salary for 9 mos.; Budgeted 2016 amt. - includes 6 mos.)

\*\* (Amounts transferred from Restricted GF represent assoc. pastor fund income received.)

**Living Water Lutheran Church**  
**Annual Meeting – February 12, 2017**  
**Agenda**

Call to order

Opening Prayer – Pastor Mark

Call for a Quorum

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes  
2016 Annual Meeting  
January 29, 2017 Special Meeting

Recognition of out-going Council Members

Election of Council Officers and Members

Pastor Mark's Report

Council President's Report

Treasurer's Report – Lee Stenehjem

Consideration and Adoption of a 2017 Plan for Ministry

Old Business

    Consideration of approval of Seasonal Membership  
        Rescind the tabled resolution from 2016 meeting regarding Seasonal  
        Membership.  
        Consideration of a new Resolution to Amend the Constitution to allow  
        for Seasonal Membership in accordance with Churchwide language.

New Business

    Consideration of a resolution to update our Bylaws. – LeeAnn Land

Installation of new Officers and Council Members – Pastor Mark

Closing Prayer – Pastor Mark

Adjourn

RESOLUTION  
to  
AMEND THE CONSTITUTION  
of  
LIVING WATER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Be it resolved that Chapter 8 of the Constitution of Living Water Living Church is hereby amended at section C8.02 to add paragraph (e) to read as follows:

C8.02(e) Seasonal members are voting members of other congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation, including exercising limited voting rights in this congregation. The Congregation Council may grant seasonal membership to such persons provided that this congregation is a member of a synod where the Synod Council has approved seasonal member voting on its territory. Such seasonal members shall have all the privileges and duties of voting members except that:

1) they shall not be eligible for elected office in, or membership on the Congregational Council or on a call committee of this congregation;

2) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the call or termination of call of any minister of this congregation;

3) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the affiliation of this congregation with the ELCA;

4) they shall not be eligible to serve as voting members from this congregation to the Synod Assembly or the Church



wide assembly;

5) they shall not, even if otherwise permitted by this Congregation, vote by proxy or by absentee ballot; and

6) they shall not, within any two calendar month period, exercise voting rights in this congregation and in the congregation where they remain voting members.

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## Sunday, February 12, 2017

### Report of the Nominating Team

The members of LWLC Nominating Committee are appointed by the Church Council. They are charged with creating a slate of candidates for election to the Council at the LWLC Annual Meeting. For the past several weeks, the Nominating Team has been carefully and prayerfully considering a number of qualified candidates to present to the congregation for election to the Council. The following candidates have agreed to serve and stand for election at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 12, 2017:

#### **Donald D. Pick, Vice President**

Don and Patti Pick moved to Arizona in 2001 and joined Living Water in 2014. Don is a lifelong Lutheran, has served on church councils and as council President at Mt. Cross Lutheran Church in University Place, WA. At Living Water, he is currently serving as the council Secretary, Grace Lutheran Church pancake breakfast organizer and as a servant team leader. Don is the Director of Clinical Operation with Valley Eye Specialists. Don feels it would be an honor to continue serving Living Water in the new role as Vice President.

#### **Jenny Dorsch, Member-at-Large**

Jenny joined Living Water in 2008 with her two children, Sarah and Jeffrey, having moved here from Chicago. At Living Water, Jenny is completing a one-year term as Member-at-Large, serves as a vocalist with the Praise Band, was a member of Pastor's Call Committee, has helped with VBS and serves on the Altar Guild. In Chicago Jenny served the Presbyterian Church of Palatine for 6 years as Moderator of the Board of Deacons managing a group of 18 Deacons in charge of hospitality, fellowship and member pastoral care, and as a member of the Personnel Committee overseeing staff policy, hiring and other personnel issues. She was involved in VBS, Sunday School, choirs, the praise band, and a Pastor Call Committee. Prior to having a family Jenny was a Human Resource manager for an international packaging company. Currently she serves as Secretary of the Scottsdale Parent Council, a Substitute Teacher for Scottsdale Unified School District and has experience as a parent group leader in the kid's schools. Jenny has a BA in Liberal Arts and MS in Human Resources and Industrial Relations.

#### **Michelle Brown, Member-at-Large**

Michelle moved to Arizona from the Valley Forge area of Pennsylvania in 1990 with her family. She had a well-rounded Christian upbringing. She was baptized Presbyterian as an infant, confirmed Methodist in Middle School, and re-baptized by full submersion in High School as a Baptist. In High School, Michelle participated in a youth group Mission to Ciudad Obregon, Mexico to host a VBS for less fortunate children. Michelle's love of horses took her to compete in the North American Young Riders Championship in Illinois at the age of 16/17. Michelle was also a member of the choir at Pinnacle Presbyterian before getting married in 2001. In 2001 Michelle moved to San Diego with her husband who was serving in the United States Navy. Michelle moved back to Arizona in 2007 and found her Church home at Living Water, joining that year with her family. Michelle's experience at Living Water includes helping with VBS, and singing in the Living Water Choir. Currently as a single parent Michelle has raised her son, Hunter, to be active in the Church as well as teaching him the importance of serving Christ through his love of God within the Community. Hunter is very active in Sunday School (Club 56), and loves to help in the Kitchen before service on Sundays (he calls it his "Sunday Job"). He also enjoys participating during the children's sermon. Outside of church, Michelle has served in the retail wireless industry for over 14 years. Michelle is honored to serve on the Living Water Lutheran Church Council in her continuing service to the Lord.

#### **Deb Bash, Secretary**

Deb moved to Arizona in 2000, and has been a member of Living Water since 2003. She is a graduate of St. Olaf College with a BA in chemistry. She serves at a Servant Team Leader for the second service and as needed, and is often called to help with baking/food needs for multiple church functions. Outside of Living Water, Deb is a plastic surgeon and practiced at Mayo Clinic from 2000-2013, and is currently in private practice in Scottsdale where she manages all aspects of the small business. On a national level, Deb is very involved with the American Medical Association and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) with insurance coding. She feels honored to serve on the church council.

**Jesus says, "Whoever drinks the water I give them, will never thirst." - John 4:14**



*Living Water Lutheran Church is a warm, vibrant, energetic, welcoming, missional community of faith in the Pinnacle Peak area of north Scottsdale. Situated in the beautiful Sonoran Desert in the shadow of Pinnacle Peak, we are a gathered and sent people grateful for God's grace and excited about sharing the good news of Jesus Christ by our worship, words and deeds.*

*We are life-long Lutherans and people brand new to faith. We are children, youth, young adults, families, empty nesters, young retirees, seniors and saints of all age. We are native Arizonans and transplants from all across the country. We are those who prefer a more traditional but still creative form of worship featuring hymns and liturgy, and those who worship best in a more casual setting with praise music and a band. We serve our neighbors near and far in a variety of ways.*

*We love to get together and have fun. We are growing in our faith and in our knowledge of God's word. We are God's people in this place, joyfully worshiping, gratefully serving, generously sharing and warmly inviting our neighbors to join us.*



*Living Water is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).*



**RECEIVE NEWS/EVENTS TEXT ALERTS FROM LIVING WATER!**

Text 13570 to 84483 (General News)  
Text 33355 to 84483 (Women's Group)

Text 22440 to 84483 (Jr/Sr High/College)  
Text 11440 to 84483 (Children's Ministry)