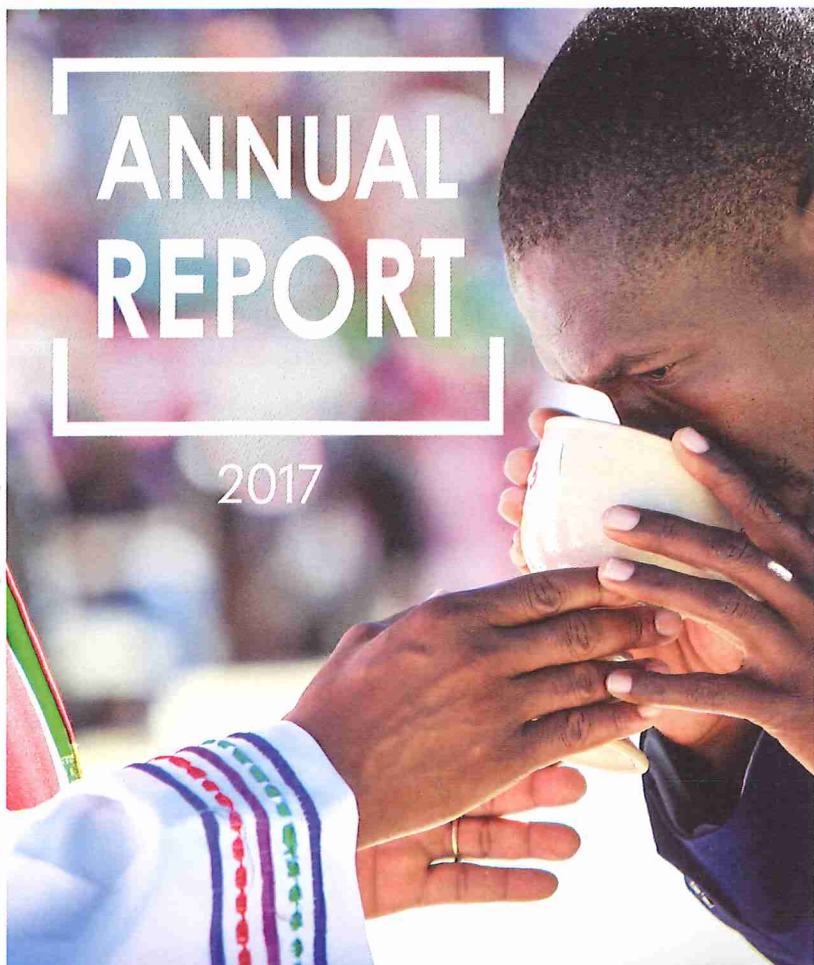


# ANNUAL REPORT

2017



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In 2017, Lutherans around the world observed the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. As the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are called to foster unity within the church and to live into God's calling together in the years ahead. Through our more than 3.7 million members and friends, we will continue to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.

We are church together, united by a common vision.

A world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ makes for all people and creation.

We are church for the sake of the world, united by a common purpose.

Together in Jesus Christ, we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully.

As we strive to live into this vision and purpose, we face many challenges. In a radically individualistic society, we seek to create and sustain life-giving relationships and communities that connect us to God and one another. In a society that is becoming increasingly secular while facing many tensions, we seek to proclaim the gospel and share the story of Jesus as a source of hope, inclusion, peace and reconciliation. And, in a world that misuses power and authority while struggling with growing inequality, we seek to follow Jesus who spoke publicly for those who were oppressed and marginalized.

As your church family gathers to make decisions about using the gifts God has entrusted to you, may you remember that by the tender love of God, by the ceaseless pursuit of the Spirit, we are members of the body of Christ. We are family. We share our lives. We love each other. By the reconciling expression of God's grace, we can live confidently and generously in this community of faith and in service of others because we are joined in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Living together in community with Christ,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

# OUR FATHER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, January 21, 2018

- ❖ Devotion & Prayer
- ❖ Call to Order
- ❖ President's Remarks
- ❖ 2017 Highlights & Ministry Reports
- ❖ Approve 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Nomination Slate
- ❖ President's 2018 budget preview
- ❖ Call to Action - 2018
- ❖ Prayer
- ❖ Adjourn





## Minneapolis Area Synod

Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

122 W Franklin Ave., Ste. 600  
Minneapolis, MN 55404-2474  
612-870-3610 · [www.mpls-synod.org](http://www.mpls-synod.org)

Dear Friends in Christ,

At a recent gathering of retired pastors, I asked participants to share the names of their home congregations. After all the introductions, I noticed that every congregation named was one I would love to attend—where the Gospel is proclaimed and the community is real.

Nothing gratifies a bishop more than seeing the vibrancy of the synod's congregations. Our most important goal as a synod staff is to support and nurture life-giving communities of faith. And, yet, we all know that a healthy congregation doesn't just magically appear; it is a miraculous coming together of gifts, talents, leaders, love, and openness to the spirit. When a synod is filled with such communities, our joy is clear, our gratitude is deep. Thank you for being communities where lives are healed and transformed through the Gospel shared in Word, Sacrament, and beloved community.

In addition to our 147 congregations, the synod has three new mission starts: Tapestry in Richfield, Intertwine in Northeast Minneapolis, Tree of Life in the North Loop. We have 268 pastors and deacons serving congregations (including 10 whom I was privileged to ordain in 2016), 71 serving in specialized ministries such as chaplaincy, and 326 who are now retired and rostered in our synod.

Much of the synod's work focuses on *leaders*. We actively look for faithful pastors and deacons to serve in our synod. We *support* leaders through mentoring, peer groups, theological and spiritual growth. We provide resources for elected congregational leaders, especially through our staff's commitment to offer wise and swift responses to the many resource requests we receive each day.

The members of our synod staff spend much of their time in congregations—preaching, installing new pastors and deacons, and providing leadership in times of transition: staff changes, call processes (of which our synod had 34 in 2016), conflict situations, and strategic planning. We also foster *connections* among ministries and congregations, believing we are stronger together. Our relationships with our companion synods continue to flourish. Next month I travel to Nigeria for the installation of the new Archbishop of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, the Rev. Musa Filibus. In May, I will be in Leipzig for Germany's premiere observance of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation.

We also have a distinctive focus on worship. We both host and provide funding for the Center for Worship and Music, led by Jay Beech, which "fosters imagination and creativity to make worship innovative and meaningful in every time and culture." I invite you to its website: [worshipandmusic.org](http://worshipandmusic.org).

Our commitment to the care of creation grows – and we delight in the efforts of our synod's EcoFaith Network. Together, we worked to pass a resolution at the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly that will provide resources so every congregation knows the watershed district in which it is located.

At our 2016 synod assembly, we passed a resolution asking each congregation to develop a mission statement on racial justice and appoint a person to serve as racial justice liaison with the synod.

During that same assembly we approved a synodical capital campaign feasibility study in conjunction with the ELCA churchwide campaign. Depending upon the study results, your synod council will decide whether to launch a campaign. The focus will be on raising resources for those urgent mission priorities that we can only do as church together.

We struggled some financially in FY 2015-16, receiving only 94% of our anticipated mission support from congregations. This meant that churchwide received 94% of what our synod pledged – and the synod operated on 94% of budget. We are especially grateful to all who have faithfully supported the synod and churchwide through their benevolence for FY 2016-17.

Thank you for the incredible privilege of serving as your bishop. I have such a deep sense of calling to this work, such profound gratitude for the Minneapolis Area Synod, and such love for the Gospel-centered, thoughtful, and welcoming work we do as the ELCA. Please let us know how we can serve one another better – working together so all experience *gracious invitation* into *life-giving Christian community* and live in *just and healthy neighborhoods*.

Bishop Ann Svennungsen



People of Our Father's,

In this first month of the new year I find myself thankful to God for all God's provision and blessing of the past year, particularly the ways we have grown together in deeper trust and mutuality. I am thankful for the pages of this Annual Report which tell the story of our life and plans together.

This is a time of great challenge—and great opportunity. God's purpose for us guiding us: *Living Christ's Love, we Invite all to Worship, Learn, Disciple and Serve*. Our life together is one of increasing growth and commitment as we practice and experiment to learn who we are and how we will be. Thanks be to God for equipping us and entrusting God's ministry to us.

I pray in the weeks and months to come our becoming will continue; that we will continue to make relationship with God and one another (*Love God, love people*) the most important thing. I pray for a heart and spirit of forgiveness and a commitment to reconciliation which will keep us together in unity.

In the time after Christ's ascension, the early church was confronted with challenges not unlike those of today: cities were filled with people of different languages and beliefs living and working together. The Apostle Paul writes to the church in Ephesus to direct and encourage them by sharing the truth in love and offering guidance on the Christian life.

Chapter four of Paul's letter to the Ephesians is entitled, *Unity in the Body of Christ*. The Message calls it *To Be Mature*. Paul proposes that in grace the Spirit shares gifts with each of us, "*But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift (v. 7).*" Those gifts, combined together in love and service to God, serve to connect us and connect others as the family of Christ.

Paul continues, "*The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ... (vs. 11-12).*"

This is a great image of the purpose we share as the body of Christ (the church): to equip the saints for the work of ministry. The work of ministry is the work of connecting: to God and to others. When we live with intentionality with this we become people of the Great Commission, Christ's appointed purpose to go out to all nations baptizing and sharing everything he taught and trusting in his promise to be with us to the end of the age.

In his Letter to Ephesians, Paul centers this all in unifying love and spiritually maturing growth: "*...until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is*

*the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love (Ephesians 4:13-16)."*

Paul is proposing a connected way of living in unity so that we have vitality in our relationships with God and with each other. We have been learning and growing, patiently waiting for God's direction to move forward at the appointed time. It appears to be the appointed time.

God has been niggling at our hearts in various ways that help us feel a renewed sense of purpose and optimism. Let us make 2018 a year of focus on emerging unity and love in which we all step forward in unifying love, purpose and divine action.

How does this action look? It always begins with prayer and listening. Together we are partners in Christ's Community and partners actively invite others to share and experience God's joy. We do this by committing to and growing in faith practices:

- **PRAY** daily
- **WORSHIP** regularly
- **GROW** in wisdom and understanding of God's Word and will for our lives and in our participation and commitment to relationships of accountability
- **SHARE** our financial resources in gratitude for all that God has first given to us
- **GIVE** of our time, gifts and abilities for the sake of God's kingdom on earth
- and **TELL** others about the God whom we confess

I invite you to join us into the new thing God is and has been doing in our midst. We are becoming new again, *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:19a)."*

God loves you and so do I!  
Pastor Jon



Blessings to you and Happy 2018!!!

It always blows my mind how fast time can pass. Many amazing things can happen in such short time, but then there are also amazing things that come to fruition over a long period of time. Whether the transformation time be short or long, in most cases it is not in our timeline, but God's.

In 2017 we have had many amazing blessings bubble up within our community and beyond, and since it is often easy to miss some of these amazing gifts, I would like to take pause and reflect upon a few of them and put them up along side our statement of purpose:

***"Living Christ's Love, we invite all to: Worship, Learn, Disciple, and Serve"***

### **Worship**

Bells, Choir, Family Friendly Service...where to begin? We have so many unique blessings, but one of the newest additions to our worship service is the use of Facebook Live. For those of you not familiar with it, it is real-time video streaming on Facebook, and after the live feed is over, the recording can be kept available for future viewing. There is no replacing the importance and many benefits of being present in worship, but this is one amazing way to serve those who cannot make it to service...and the response from those who have used it has been great! Just to give you an idea of the outreach, over our last two Christmas Cantatas, we have had a combined total of over 1,700 views!!!

### **Learn**

One of the most exciting and energy filled places at OFLC is on Wednesday evenings during Confirmation. There is an unexplainable energy, connectedness, and relational vitality that most faith communities yearn for. Worship services are primarily student lead and offer new perspectives on how being church looks. One of the noticings I have had is how many new leaders have stepped forward to engage with and mentor the youth! I would invite you to consider serving in this space if you are looking for a rewarding service opportunity...just ask one of the Confirmation leaders!

### **Disciple**

When people think of disciples, most think of Jesus's crew, the twelve. In actuality, we are all called to be and make disciples – Matthew 28:19 in the great commission. There is one unique example of this that happens in schools all across the country, and Rockford is no exception. The program is called STRIVE...and what it stands for is Students Taking Renewed Interest in the Value of Education. What it is in actuality is a mentorship program for kids in high school that are at the lower half of their class grade wise, and they are presented with the opportunity to enroll in a

(Continued ... Wold 2)

STRIVE program to work toward bettering their future. What happens in STRIVE is there are Mentors from the community, many from OFLC, that take time out of their day twice a month to meet with students and provide mentorship. Relationships are cultivated, trust is gained, conversations had, and life altering directional changes are produced for both the student and mentors alike as they grow and discover what they are passionate about or called to do...college, vocational training, trade schooling, entrepreneur, etc.

### **Serve**

Serving others is one of the most selfless acts one can do. As it is said in Hebrews 13:1-2, "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." When thinking of being God's hands and feet, and reflecting on this scripture, I cannot help but think of one amazing example of one of our own showing Christ's love in the world by being a good Samaritan. This story is a profound witness of what happens when you are paying attention and are letting God lead. Long story short, the Samaritan had to get fuel for his vehicle and came across a couple who were broke down in many ways (physically, mentally, emotionally, and financially) after just being duped into purchasing what they felt was a good vehicle. The Samaritan left, but then felt a spiritual press to return to offer help. Not only did he help the couple get vehicle maintenance, but he helped to break down cultural and racial stigmas; he has helped to open up their eyes to God's abundant grace; has allowed our faith community to enter into relationship with them through prayers and financial support; but furthermore, he has continued to nurture that relationship and offer spiritual mentorship...all because he stopped to lend a helping hand. This was not the Samaritan's doing, this was God's doing...he was just the messenger.

### **Call to Action 2018.**

I know I am not the only one who feels a sense we need to move. We have had several years of pruning, visioning, and now the atmosphere feels primed to do something about it. Some may ask why now? I say why not?

I personally have felt a spiritual press about this, and I know others have too, and we can even see signs of it within our community. There was even a small group that gathered together to discuss what a future church might look like? And you know what we found out? We are already there...we just need more momentum to do God's great ministry.

(Continued ... Wold 3)

Part of the vision for in 2018 is to identify a few things to focus on doing, and do them well. Solidification of our focus for 2018 will happen early on in the year with the new leadership team, but here are just a few of the items for consideration:

- How can we better support our youth after confirmation?
- People actively desire a place to serve...how might we better connect them with service opportunities?
- Formalize a framework to better suit how we do church today
- A comprehensive building review for current and future needs is required, and development of an action plan for execution in 2019 will have to be flushed out.
- Renewed focus on Year Round Stewardship
- Constitutional review and rework
- How can we better equip people for leadership opportunities?

Friends, 2017 was a great year, but 2018 has countless opportunities for use to explore and put forth into action! We have been blessed beyond measure and now just need to prayerfully consider how we get to share that with the world around us and be Christ's hands and feet.

I really hope this is obvious to you, but the kingdom of God is here and now. This life we have is a precious gift, and we only have one life to live here on earth. There are no "do-overs," "time outs," "mulligans," or "false starts." This is the main event, this is the Super Bowl, the Finals, this is it! Make it count.

God created you for greatness, he made you awesome, he made you in his image, and who are we to argue that? Be the person he created you to be. Be awesome! Be the one who loves on the unlovable, the one who everyone can count on, can lean on. Be the change agent, the difference maker, the miracle in someone's life. Remember to love others just as Christ loves you.

I'm not sure about you, but at the end of my life, I would like God to be able to say to me, "Well done, my good and faithful servant, well done!"

Remember, God loves you all and so do I!

Anthony Wold



## **Ministry Reports**

### **Bedding Ministry**

Our Father's continues to receive requests for our Bedding Ministry through Love In the Name of Christ Heartland. We had 33 requests for bedding this past year, and are privileged to meet these neighbors and also make sure they have what they need to stay warm at night. Our three regular volunteers would welcome another few people who could occasionally help out with neighbor visits, sorting, or trips to our Delano Love INC office. Many of the neighbors we serve are also involved in relational classes on stress, life skills, budgeting, etc.

One neighbor we spoke with recently shared with us that she had almost lost her cat in the apartment fire in her building. We could hear the fear and relief in her voice, and it gave us an opportunity to show some love. Another neighbor shared with us about all the help she has received from Love INC over the past 10 years, both here and in a previous city. She touched us as she said she prays for all those at Love INC. We felt privileged to pray with her at our visit.

Thank you for all the bedding/linens donations during the year!

There are many opportunities, small or large, to get involved in at Love INC. Check it out!

*John 15:12. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

Submitted by Laurie Hanson

### **Building and Grounds**

The care of our building in 2017 was done by many different hands. Community groups who share our church home are good stewards as well church members at many events.

Some of the accomplishments for this past year were:

- Coffee makers set up
- New dish washer set up
- Lighting fixture repair
- Timer for outdoor lights
- Outdoor light on education wing entrance

We look forward to another year of working with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Submitted by Paul Mutterer



## **Education: Engage & Confirm 2017-2018**

We have an awesome group of students on Wednesday nights for Engage & Confirm. We registered 75 students in September – a large group! We have many students who are busy in school activities and community groups but they still show up as often as possible to be with each other and discuss being Christians in today's world. Twelve students completed their Affirmation of Faith on October 29, 2017.

Our curriculum this year comes from a combination of three different lesson plans.

- Reform lessons are used to discuss the big questions on parent's night such as "Can I be a Christian without going to church?" and "Why does the bible contradict itself?"
- Collaborate lessons are used on regular lesson nights. Using videos, games and discussion time, we have discussed subjects such as The Apostle's Creed and The Book of Acts.
- Connect-the-Drops is a program to connect care of Earth with our Christianity.

Our regular schedule is:

- Supper at 6:00pm
- Large group at 6:30pm
- Small group at 7:00pm
- Worship at 7:30pm

Our worship time is a student lead service with Pr. Jon or another adult leading the message. We enjoy a regular service with students having the opportunity to lead prayers, communion and Apostles Creed. Helping students understand how important they are to the church is an important part of their faith journey.

A huge thank you to all the people who mentor, greet the students, provide food and kitchen duty, and support the youth program here at Our Father's Lutheran Church. Without your support and love our program could not be successful! God Bless!

Submitted by Pam Hoekstra and Diane Mutterer

## **Quilting/Sewing Ministry**

The Quilting/Sewing group has had a busy year. Despite meeting only 9 months of the year, we've completed 5 or 6 quilts for Vinland Treatment Center, a hand-quilted throw for the Harvest Festival, a quilt for the silent auction in December, a number of Baptismal napkins, and 21 prayer pillows to be distributed to our youngest worshippers. All that, and it never feels like work! As with the church as a whole, we each bring our gifts to the table. Some enjoy planning and cutting; others do machine stitching. Some get the quilts sandwiched and tied, and others do the binding. The results are beautiful and useful expressions of warmth and caring. Come if you have an interest in learning or sharing your sewing gifts. All skill levels are welcome.

Submitted by Gail Swanson

## **Women's Ministry Annual Report - 2017**

### **Lent Supper "Potluck"**

This was our second year providing the sign-up sheets to sponsor a Lent Supper Potluck. Once again, this was successful as the different committees and groups worked together to provide a variety of wonderful meals for five Lenten Wednesdays in February-March.

### **Women's Retreat**

The retreat was at Camp Koronis on March 10-11. Our Facilitator was Sarah Dahl. With 19 attendees, we had a great time studying and learning "How God Sees Us," along with receiving communion together. The retreat requires a number of other support roles and we always have plenty of disciples to assist. In addition to the camp rental, part of the attendees' fees are paid for by Women's Ministry.

### **Rally (Round Up) Sunday**

In September, we had a table at Rally Sunday to share information on our ministry and provided handouts with our scheduled events.

### **Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering**

The annual gathering takes place in October. In 2017, we had no attendees from OFLC. Previous presentations led to donations from Women's Ministry for women in need. Part of the attendees' fees are paid by Women's Ministry.

*(Note: We donated to the WELCA 2017 Triennial which was hosted in Minneapolis.)*

### **Women of the ELCA Thank-offering Sunday**

This is an annual global event. The Women of OFLC led both services on Sunday, November 19. We collected donations totaling \$803 which were then donated to Women of the ELCA.

### **Lefse Making**

With the work of many hands, the Lefse dough was prepared on November 17 and on November 18 we made 300 pieces of Lefse to sell at our annual cookie walk. The best part of this event is the fellowship and sharing of family history and tradition.

### **Cookie Walk & Silent Auction**

On December 2, we held our 29<sup>th</sup> annual Cookie Walk/Silent Auction/Craft Sale. This is part of the day long "Crow River Christmas" community celebration. We had another successful event with people lining up an hour before the sale began. This was due to good advertising and the reputation this event has built over the years because of the many church and community members who donate baked cookies, silent auction items and time. We sold a new record of 109 sloppy joe lunches too! Proceeds from this event support OFLC ministries and the surrounding community. With some of the 2017 funds, we made donations towards the new commercial coffee maker for the kitchen and for OFLC youth to attend the National Youth Gathering.

*(Note: Jim and Barb Strehlow received a "Thrivent Action Team Grant" to support this project.)*

Submitted by Kerri Holm-Eberling

## **Ministry Events and Outreach**

### **God's Work. Our Hands.**

Round Up Sunday brought with it a partnership with Grace Place and an opportunity to serve, to share God's love with our community and our neighbors on a perfect fall day. Thanks to 20+ volunteers windows were washed, weed whipping and weeding accomplished. Above all, we joined together to become the body of Christ in serving our neighbor.

### **Harvest Festival 2017**

The first annual Harvest Festival was held in early October. It featured great food, a bake sale, farmers' market, live music, hay rides, a pumpkin patch and pumpkin decorating. Local community groups set up informational booths to share their activities and stories.

The festival raised nearly \$4000 that would go to support OFLC ministries. Best of all, however, we saw a gathering of our neighbors in celebration of the abundance of God's gifts in our lives. We look forward to growth in this event for 2018.

### **No Tricks, All Treats**

What fun it was to host over 40 young ones for activities and goodies, a meal and a movie. Although there was no shortage of sugar that night, the children also went home with treat bags filled with Christian themed stickers and prizes to remind them that they are Jesus' light in the world. Thanks to a Thrivent grant, the event cost was covered and enough left over to support confirmation dinners.

### **Riverworks Partnership**

There's a great opportunity for local volunteer work right in our community. The Riverworks Thrift Store receives mounds of good, usable items. Proceeds from the resale of these items goes to support the Riverworks Food Shelf and other Riverworks programming to strengthen our community. However, it takes lots of hands to sort, tag and hang, or display all of these donated items. And that's where we come in. The first and third Thursdays of each month we have a number of volunteers who meet at the store and assist with whatever is needed at the moment. We work under the direction of in-the-know staff, so it's easy to feel useful almost immediately. Join us for some active conversation and a chance to see how our donated items are used to benefit local and not-so-local (think Haiti) individuals.

OFLC has committed to staffing the Riverworks Food Shelf on the 5th Monday of the month. While this does not occur regularly, it does happen several times per year. With just a little training it's easy to assist shoppers as they navigate aisles and choose from the canned goods, fresh produce, baked good, and dairy cases. If you have a few hours on an occasional Monday evening it's a great way to become involved in the community. Our Thanksgiving time program, **Dimes for Discipleship**, led by the OFLC youth, raised \$900. These monies were donated to the food shelf and designated for the purchase of turkeys for the holidays.

## **Seminarian Report**

Living Christ's Love – Grateful, Thankful and Hopeful

In 2017, I am grateful for the continued support of the OFLC community as I completed my second year of seminary studies at Luther Seminary. I am thankful that this Spirit-led community provides space for those who wish to explore their call into ministry. I am also thankful for the heart of this community that opens its doors to serve those in their time of need. The church hosted my mom's funeral in November, and I cannot express enough how gracious and wonderful this is when one is facing hardships such as a death of a family member. The servants of this community allowed my family to be fully present with my mom and those who came to pay their respects. Going forward, I am hopeful that this community will continue to listen and faithfully embrace its call to love God and others in new and exciting ways.

Entering into 2018, in addition to exploring my call to ministry and seminary studies, I am looking forward to starting a new role at the church where I will be working closely as a part of the Office Partners in Ministry Team as a part-time project assistant. One specific area of focus will be assisting with the Contribution system software upgrade.

With peace and love,  
Jeff Miller





# Our Father's Lutheran Church 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

**Date: 1/22/2017**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>Members In Attendance</b>	There were 45 members in attendance	N/A
<b>Our Father's Lutheran Church Foundation 2016 Annual Report</b>	Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any monetary gift made to the Foundation is tax deductible.</li> <li>The Foundation invests the money it receives and gives the profits it earns back to the community.</li> <li>The sum of checking and investments as of 12/31/2015 was \$52,407.32.</li> <li>The sum of checking and investments as of 12/31/2016 was \$57,324.38.</li> </ul>	Krista Fisher
<b>Opening Litany And Song</b>	Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Litany inside the front cover of the 2016 Annual Report</li> <li>Hymn: "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"</li> </ul>	Pastor Jon Rhodes, Tammy Jarvi
<b>Call To Order/Agenda/Robert's Rules</b>	Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meeting was called to order at 11:10 AM by Amy Blake Field, President.</li> <li>The 2016 Annual Meeting Agenda is listed on page two of the 2016 Annual Report.</li> <li>Amy Blake Field provided a brief review of Robert's Rules.</li> </ul>	Amy Blake Field, President
<b>Approval Of 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes.</b>	Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members took time to review the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes.</li> <li>Norie Siers made a motion to approve the 2015 Annual Congregation meeting minutes. Kara Birznieks seconded the motion. Opened for discussion, no discussion. Members voted and Motion carried unanimously.</li> </ul>	Amy Blake Field, President
<b>2016 God Sightings</b>	Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several God Sightings were raised up including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strength individuals show during adversity</li> <li>Personal (1:1 postcard) invitation to Bible study</li> <li>A child's witness on an index card to her friends at school</li> <li>Authenticity/ Honesty displayed</li> <li>Our community ceasing to be individuals and becoming more community centered</li> <li>A child singing "Away In The Manger" at the Christmas Cantata</li> <li>God led discussion for the Men's Group</li> <li>A new bed provided to an individual in need through the bedding ministry</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Amy Blake Field, President/ Group Share

<b>Current Financial Standing</b>	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The General Operating Fund concluded 2016 with an overall surplus of \$18, 501.</li> <li>• The Building/Mortgage Fund ended the year with a reserve of \$15,742. This reserve represents approximately 5 months worth of mortgage payments.</li> <li>• As of 12/31/2016, OFLC had a total cash balance of \$59,258 which consisted of the General Operating Fund Reserve of \$18,501, Building/Mortgage reserves of \$15,742, and Dedicated Fund reserves of \$25,015.</li> </ul>	<p>Mike Dickman, Treasurer</p>
<b>Overall Financial Position</b>	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In November 2016, the church mortgage was refinanced with Bankwest in Rockford, Minnesota for the same monthly mortgage payment previously in place with the current interest rate set to balloon in five years.</li> <li>• As part of the refinancing process, a \$100,000 line of credit was secured.</li> </ul>	<p>Mike Dickman, Treasurer</p>
<b>Proposed 2017 Budget And Accompanying Budget Narrative</b>	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed 2017 Our Father's Lutheran Church (OFLC) budget can be found on pages 19 and 20 if the 2016 Annual Report. The accompanying budget narrative can be found on pages 21 and 22 of the 2016 Annual Report.</li> <li>• The proposed General Fund budget for 2017 is \$297,100.00 This is a 1% increase from the 2016 budget.</li> <li>• Some of the highlights of the proposed budget include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Compensation and Benefits:</b> includes adhering to the Minneapolis ELCA Synod Compensation Guidelines, covering health care benefit rate increases, and a full year budget for the new Learning and Community Advocate position. This position brought forward four potential applicants and follow-up interviews have been conducted. The hope is to fill the position sooner rather than later.</li> <li>○ <b>Benevolence:</b> Includes allocation of \$3000 to the General Scholarship Fund and contributions to the Minneapolis ELCA Synod (5% of total General Fund income collected) and Rockford Riverworks (1% of total General Fund income collected). If a check is made out specifically for Riverworks, this is not included in the 1% of</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Mike Dickman, Treasurer</p>

	<p>total income collected; a separate check is issued to Riverworks for any donations made specifically to them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Worship:</b> includes worship supplies, new music scores, additional music performances, and cost of musicians</li> <li>○ <b>Ministry Support:</b> This is a new component of the proposed budget this year to provide start-up funds for organic ministries.</li> <li>○ <b>Buildings And Grounds:</b> OFLC can access the Line Of Credit for any major capital improvement needed (i.e. new furnace, air conditioner). Council would be required to approve any expenditure from the Line Of Credit. The congregation would need to approve any expenditure over \$5,000.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other important points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Typically, the church does not spent the entire proposed budget each year.</li> <li>○ Since OFLC operates on a faith based budget, the budget is fluid and adjustments can be made throughout the year.</li> <li>○ The OFLC leadership has attempted to be good stewards of the financial resources of the community.</li> <li>○ There are other possibilities OFLC can utilize to maximize income generated (i.e. the use of phone text giving, fundraising, building/land use to generate revenue, outside resources such as Amazon Smile and Thrivent, and grant money).</li> <li>○ The second mortgage declining line of credit that was taken out in 2012 will be paid off in April 2017. It is approximately \$500/month.</li> <li>○ Approximately 40 of the 180 giving units utilize Simply Giving. There is a monthly fee associated with Simply Giving of approximately \$40/month.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Tari Brase made a motion to approve the 2017 OFLC General Operating Fund budget. Korki Blodgett and Norie Siers seconded the motion. Opened for discussion, no discussion. Members voted and Motion carried with one dissenting vote.</li> </ul>	
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2017 Nominating Slate	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2017 OFLC Nominating Slate is located on page 33 of the 2016 Annual Report.</li> <li>• Current Open Positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Vice President:</b> Primarily Responsible to oversee meetings in the absence of the President, is typically a three year term (Vice President, President, Past President); participates on council as a voting member.</li> <li>○ <b>Treasurer:</b> Acts a a custodian of all of the congregation's funds and manages the financial activities of the congregation; is authorized to disperse church funds and participates on council as a voting member. This position can be shared by two individuals; however only one officer may exercise voting rights.</li> <li>○ <b>Council Chair/ Representative At Large Positions:</b> Three remaining positions available. Participates on council as a voting member and will be required to discern and take action on both practical business and visioning matters on behalf of the congregation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The following individuals stepped forward for the positions listed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>President:</b> Anthony Wold</li> <li>○ <b>Secretary:</b> Sarah Jones</li> <li>○ <b>Past President:</b> Amy Blake Field</li> <li>○ <b>Representatives At Large:</b> Gail Swanson, Rachel Baccum, Eric Dahl, Kara Birznieks, Sherry Meola, and Karen Sangren</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Norrie Siers made a motion to approve the 2017 OFLC Nominating Slate. Korki Blodgett seconded the motion. Opened for discussion, no discussion. Members voted and Motion carried unanimously.</li> </ul>	Amy Blake Field, President
Closing Song	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tammy Jarvi sang the song she wrote based on the new OFLC mission statement.</li> </ul>	Tammy Jarvi

Our Father's Lutheran Church  
2017 Nominating Slate

President – Anthony Wold

Vice President – Open

Treasurer – Sarah Jones

Secretary – Rachel Baccam

At Large – Erik Dahl

At Large – Larry Lommen

At Large – Julie Vergin

Individuals that have been invited or have it on their hearts.





## 2017 Financial Review

Dear Friends in Christ,

During 2017 God continued to bless OFLC in the area of our Church finances. Some of the highlights include:

**The General Operating Fund** concluded 2017 with an overall surplus of \$20,189

**The Building/Mortgage Fund** ended the year at \$16,681. The reserve represents six month's of mortgage payments.

The total of all donations to the Operating Fund, Building Fund and Designated Accounts was \$326,959

As of 12/31/17, OFLC had a **total cash balance** of \$85,924 which consisted of the General Operating Fund reserve of \$20,189, Building/Mortgage reserves of \$16,681 and Dedicated Fund reserves of \$49,054.

### SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND INCOME

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
General Operating Fund Offering	\$234,918	\$255,120	\$226,526	\$225,560
Other Income	8,765	25,486	\$19,159	\$9,905
Building/Mortgage Fund	37,356	39,360	\$38,288	\$34,075
Designated Funds & Self Funding	<u>74,606</u>	<u>31,632</u>	<u>\$28,020</u>	<u>\$57,419</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$355,645</b>	<b>\$351,598</b>	<b>\$311,993</b>	<b>\$326,959</b>

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
General Operating Fund	-\$4,276	\$21,504	\$18,501	\$20,189
Building/Mortgage Fund	15,278	16,171	\$15,742	\$16,681
Designated Funds & Self Funding	45,192	24,954	\$25,015	\$49,054
Land, Building and Assets	<u>1,943,069</u>	<u>1,943,069</u>	<u>1,943,069</u>	<u>1,943,069</u>
Total Assets	1,999,263	2,005,698	2,002,327	2,028,993
Total Liabilities (Mortgage & 2nd Mortgage)	<u>-460,983</u>	<u>-442,266</u>	<u>-\$422,851</u>	<u>-\$408,105</u>
<b>NET WORTH</b>	<b>\$1,538,280</b>	<b>\$1,563,432</b>	<b>\$1,579,476</b>	<b>\$1,620,888</b>

### FUND BALANCES

General Operating Fund	\$20,189
Building/Mortgage Fund	16,681
Designated Funds & Self Funding	<u>49,054</u>
<b>TOTAL CASH IN ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>\$85,924</b>

### MORTGAGE BALANCES

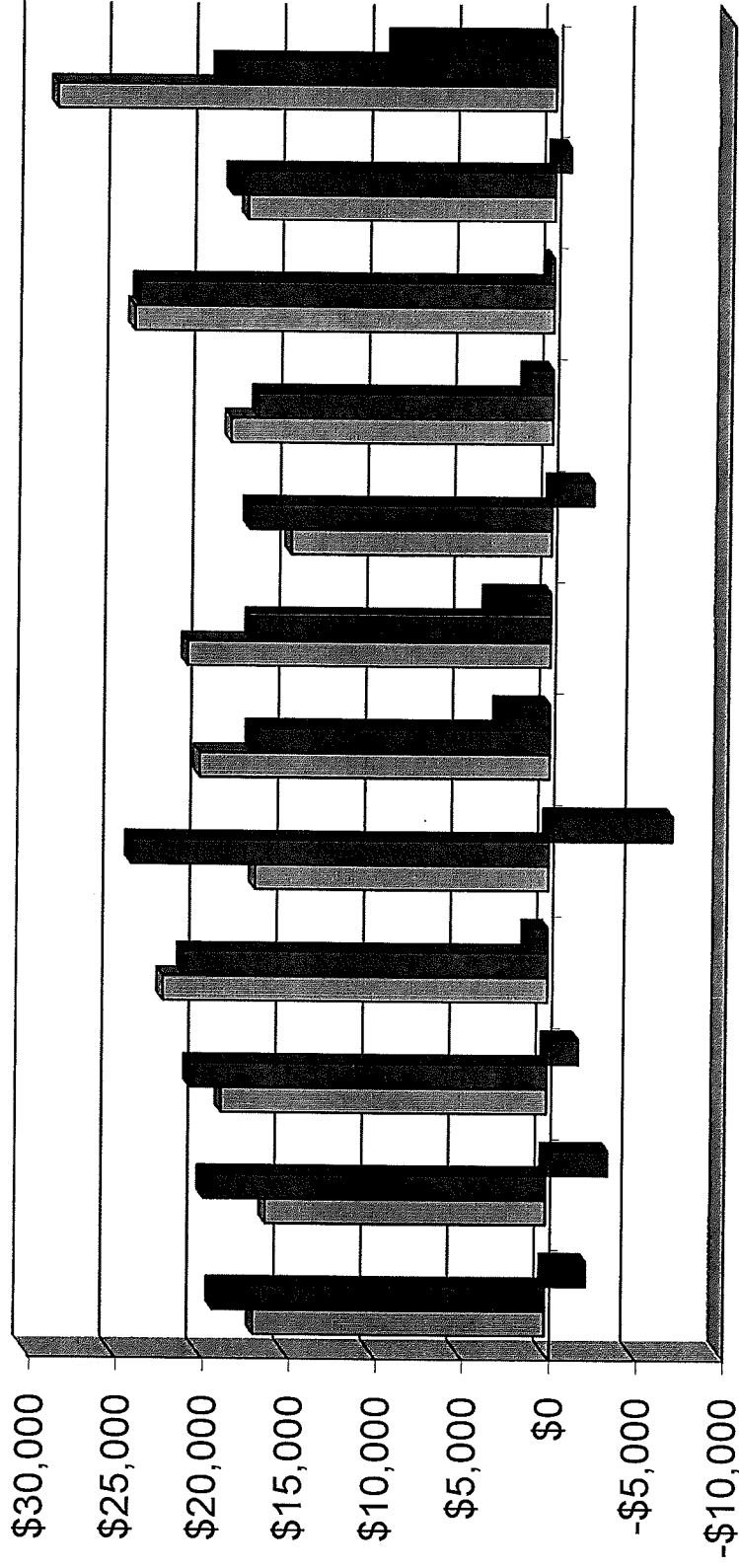
Mortgage	<b>\$407,888</b>
* \$2,653 monthly payment @ 4.375% Interest rate	
Maturity of Loan - November 2021	

\* The Council has approved and is recommending congregational approval for the 2018 proposed budget.

Everything belongs to God, And we are privileged to use and share our blessings. Our God is a God of abundance!

Respectfully Submitted in Christ's Love,  
Glenda Banken, OFLC Financial Secretary -Administrator

# 2017 Monthly Operating Fund Status



Income  
Expense  
Net of Inc & Exp

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
INCOME	\$16,818	\$16,160	\$18,748	\$22,135	\$16,899	\$20,102	\$20,860	\$14,973	\$18,471	\$24,068	\$17,614	\$28,617	\$235,465
EXPENSE	\$19,162	\$19,717	\$20,553	\$20,955	\$24,012	\$17,154	\$17,232	\$17,365	\$16,935	\$23,816	\$18,519	\$19,303	\$234,724
Inc/Exp	(\$2,344)	(\$3,557)	(\$1,805)	\$1,180	(\$7,113)	\$2,948	\$3,628	(\$2,393)	\$1,536	\$252	(\$905)	\$9,314	\$741

# 2017 BUILDING FUND REPORT

## Church Mortgage

MONTH	Month Receipts	Mortgage Expense	Difference	Principal Pd. Down	Mortgage Interest Paid	Mortgage Balance	Reserve Balance
December 2016	\$ 5,972.00	\$ 2,653.17	\$2,766.40	\$ 1,106.93	\$ 1,546.24	\$ 421,586.38	\$ 15,741.74
January	\$ 2,923.00	\$ 2,653.17	(\$282.60)	\$ 1,059.55	\$ 1,593.62	\$ 420,526.83	\$ 15,459.14
February	\$ 2,552.00	\$ 2,653.17	(\$653.60)	\$1,165.75	\$ 1,487.42	\$ 419,361.08	\$ 14,805.54
March	\$ 2,878.00	\$ 2,653.17	\$32.93	\$ 1,221.00	\$ 1,432.17	\$ 418,140.08	\$ 14,838.47
April	\$ 3,189.00	\$ 2,653.17	\$535.83	\$ 1,072.15	\$ 1,581.02	\$ 417,067.93	\$ 15,374.30
May	\$ 2,478.00	\$ 2,653.17	(\$175.17)	\$ 1,228.46	\$ 1,424.71	\$ 415,839.47	\$ 15,199.13
June	\$ 2,379.00	\$ 2,653.17	(\$274.17)	\$ 1,080.44	\$ 1,572.73	\$ 414,759.03	\$ 14,924.96
July	\$ 2,943.50	\$ 2,653.17	\$290.33	\$ 1,135.11	\$ 1,518.06	\$ 413,623.92	\$ 15,215.29
August	\$ 2,168.00	\$ 2,653.17	(\$485.17)	\$ 1,189.36	\$ 1,463.81	\$ 412,434.56	\$ 14,730.12
September	\$ 2,547.00	\$ 2,653.17	(\$106.17)	\$ 1,092.88	\$ 1,560.29	\$ 411,341.68	\$ 14,623.95
October	\$ 2,883.00	\$ 2,653.17	\$229.83	\$ 1,147.20	\$ 1,505.97	\$ 410,194.48	\$ 14,853.78
November	\$ 2,407.00	\$ 2,653.17	(\$249.17)	\$ 1,151.20	\$ 1,501.97	\$ 409,043.28	\$ 14,607.61
December	\$ 4,727.00	\$ 2,653.17	\$2,073.83	\$ 1,155.40	\$ 1,497.77	\$ 407,887.88	\$ 16,681.44
<b>2017 TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 34,074.50</b>	<b>\$ 31,838.04</b>	<b>\$936.70</b>	<b>\$13,698.50</b>	<b>\$18,139.54</b>		

Current Rate 4.375%  
 Current Amortization 25 years  
 Maturity of Loan November 2021

# 2017 BUILDING FUND REPORT

## 2nd Mortgage (Line of Credit)

MONTH	2nd Mortgage Expense	2nd Mortgage Principal Pd. Down	2nd Mortgage Interest Paid	2nd Mortgage Balance
December 2016	\$ 552.43	\$ 545.74	\$ 6.69	\$ 1,264.74
January	\$ 552.43	\$ 547.58	\$ 4.85	\$ 717.16
February	\$ 552.43	\$ 549.82	\$ 2.61	\$ 167.34
March	\$ 191.90	\$ 191.25	\$ 0.65	-\$ 23.91
2nd Mortg. Payoff Adjustment		-\$ 23.91		\$ 0.00
April	\$ 0.00			\$ 0.00
May	\$ 0.00			\$ 0.00
June	\$ 0.00			\$ 0.00
July	\$ 0.00			\$ 0.00
August	\$ 0.00			\$ 0.00
September	\$ 0.00			\$ 0.00
October	\$ 0.00			\$ 0.00
November	\$ 0.00			\$ 0.00
December	\$ 0.00			\$ 0.00
2017 TOTALS	\$1,296.76	\$1,264.74	\$8.11	



*Our Father's Lutheran Church*

## Statement of Financial Position

December 2017

	Year Begin Balance	Year to Date Balance	Balance Last Month	This Month Change	Year to Date Last Year
<b>Assets</b>					
Cash & Checking Accounts Totals:	59,257.52	85,923.68	56,751.50	29,172.18	59,257.52
Savings & Investments Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Land, Buildings & Fixed Assets Totals:	1,943,069.41	1,943,069.41	1,943,069.41	0.00	1,943,069.41
<b>Total Assets:</b>	2,002,326.93	2,028,993.09	1,999,820.91	29,172.18	2,002,326.93
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Cash & Checking Accounts Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payroll Withholdings Totals:	(0.06)	216.64	220.38	(3.74)	(0.06)
Accounts Payable Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Short Term Debt Totals:	1,264.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,264.74
Long Term Debt Totals:	421,586.38	407,887.88	409,043.28	(1,155.40)	421,586.38
<b>Total Liabilities:</b>	422,851.06	408,104.52	409,263.66	(1,159.14)	422,851.06
<b>Net Assets</b>					
Fund Equity Totals:	1,538,719.34	1,539,425.21	1,539,425.21	0.00	1,522,307.07
Without Donor Restrictions	660.03	714.70	964.70	(250.00)	660.03
With Donor Restrictions	40,096.50	65,020.23	44,908.28	20,111.95	40,096.50
Dedicated Accounts Totals:	40,756.53	65,734.93	45,872.98	19,861.95	40,756.53
Current Period Changes to Net Assets	0.00	15,728.43	5,259.06	10,469.37	16,412.27
<b>Total Net Assets:</b>	1,579,475.87	1,620,888.57	1,590,557.25	30,331.32	1,579,475.87
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets:</b>	2,002,326.93	2,028,993.09	1,999,820.91	29,172.18	2,002,326.93

## Our Father's Lutheran Church

### Dedicated Accounts

December 2017

	Beginning Balance	Month Credits	Month Debits	YTD Credits	YTD Debits	Ending Balance
<b>General Fund</b>						
<b>Designated Funds</b>						
Worship - Dedicated Totals:	4,678.00	321.67	0.00	729.67	310.00	5,097.67
Education - Dedicated Totals:	2,307.74	319.00	0.00	4,115.00	2,785.97	3,636.77
Administration - Dedicated Totals:	3,918.42	2,330.00	0.00	2,330.00	459.63	5,788.79
Evangelism - Dedicated Totals:	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
Social Concerns Dedicated Totals:	506.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	506.80
Fellowship - Designated Totals:	3,465.58	270.28	52.03	2,350.29	2,028.27	3,787.60
Women's Ministry - Dedicated Totals:	6,615.38	4,799.55	192.11	10,648.64	6,609.40	10,654.62
Men's Ministry Totals:	28.00	0.00	0.00	1,038.00	1,142.77	(76.77)
Youth - Dedicated Totals:	201.74	12,483.00	0.00	19,523.07	3,515.00	16,209.81
Building & Grounds - Dedicated Totals:	2,130.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,130.49
Designated Funds Totals:	23,872.15	20,523.50	244.14	40,734.67	16,851.04	47,755.78
<b>Self Funding</b>						
Benevolence Totals:	80.00	125.00	25.00	1,925.00	1,825.00	180.00
Chancel Flowers/Decorations Totals:	402.61	0.00	0.00	530.00	594.60	338.01
Self Funding - Other Totals:	0.00	7,389.10	9,730.34	17,851.05	17,786.05	65.00
Self Funding Totals:	482.61	7,514.10	9,755.34	20,306.05	20,205.65	583.01
General Fund Totals:	24,354.76	28,037.60	9,999.48	61,040.72	37,056.69	48,338.79
<b>Building Fund</b>						
<b>Building Fund</b>						
Building Fund Totals:	15,741.74	2,073.83	0.00	3,162.75	2,223.05	16,681.44
Building Fund Totals:	15,741.74	2,073.83	0.00	3,162.75	2,223.05	16,681.44
Building Fund Totals:	15,741.74	2,073.83	0.00	3,162.75	2,223.05	16,681.44
<b>Good Samaritan Fund</b>						
<b>Good Samaritan Account</b>						
Good Samaritan Fund Totals:	660.03	0.00	250.00	2,143.00	2,088.33	714.70
Good Samaritan Account Totals:	660.03	0.00	250.00	2,143.00	2,088.33	714.70
Good Samaritan Fund Totals:	660.03	0.00	250.00	2,143.00	2,088.33	714.70
<b>Total for selected dedicated accounts:</b>	<b>40,756.53</b>	<b>30,111.43</b>	<b>10,249.48</b>	<b>66,346.47</b>	<b>41,368.07</b>	<b>65,734.93</b>

# 2018 OFLC General Operating Fund Budget

## Budget Narrative

### Compensation and Benefits

**\$220,830**

Adhering to Minneapolis ELCA Synod Compensation guidelines for Pastor

Cover Health Care benefit rate increases for Pastor

Paid staff includes: Pastor, Administrator, Administrative Assistant, Custodian, Organist,

Director of Music, Senior Choir Director, Bell Choir Director, Sunshine Ringers Director

and Special Project Assistants. Includes budgeting for Support Specialist position (\$17,202)

### Benevolence

**\$19,600**

Contributions to:

Minneapolis ELCA Synod (5% of General Fund Donations)

Rockford Riverworks (1% of General Fund Donations)

LovelINC financial support (\$600)

General Scholarship Fund (\$4K)

### Worship

**\$2,300**

Worship supplies; new music scores

Additional music performances; cost of musicians

### Education

**\$5,130**

Curriculum and materials for Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Education and VBS

### Administration

**\$24,825**

Maintaining daily Church operations: insurance, copier lease, office supplies, etc.

### Evangelism

**\$500**

Outreach programming

### Stewardship

**\$200**

Year Round Stewardship efforts

### Fellowship

**\$1,500**

Events to support Community building and service projects

Leadership retreat

### Women's Ministry

**\$200**

Women's Ministry continuing to self fund via fundraising efforts

Food Safety certifications to operate Kitchen

### Youth Ministry

**\$1,400**

Wednesday night Youth program

Provide funding for Pastor Jon to attend National Youth Gathering

### Building & Grounds

**\$18,970**

Facilities upkeep

### Social Concerns

**\$100**

Bedding ministry; Love Inc. programs

### Ministry Support

**\$4,000**

Start-up funds for organic ministries

## SUMMARY

<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>\$+/- L.Y. Budget</u>	<u>% +/- L.Y. Budget</u>
\$299,555	\$297,100	\$2,455	0.08%

## Our Father's Lutheran Church Budget

<b><i>Income: General Fund</i></b>		<b>December 2017 Budget</b>	<b>December 2017 YTD Actual</b>	<b>Proposed 2018 Budget</b>
<b>Offerings</b>				
400 Envelope Offering - General		\$279,175.00	\$225,559.65	\$236,838.00
401 Envelope Offering - S. S.		\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
	<b>Total for Offerings</b>	<b>\$279,225.00</b>	<b>\$225,559.65</b>	<b>\$236,888.00</b>
<b>Special Income</b>				
403 Education Registration		\$1,250.00	\$545.00	\$1,200.00
404 Special Event Income		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>Total for Special Income</b>	<b>\$1,250.00</b>	<b>\$545.00</b>	<b>\$1,200.00</b>
<b>Other Income</b>				
405 Interest		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
407 Building Use Donations		\$2,400.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,400.00
408 Other Income		\$14,225.00	\$7,360.40	\$9,600.00
	<b>Total for Other Income</b>	<b>\$16,625.00</b>	<b>\$9,360.40</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>
	<b><i>Total for General Fund</i></b>	<b><i>\$297,100.00</i></b>	<b><i>\$235,465.05</i></b>	<b><i>\$250,088.00</i></b>
<b><i>Expense: General Fund</i></b>				
<b>Worship</b>		\$3,000.00	\$1,186.16	\$2,300.00
<b>Education</b>		\$5,225.00	\$1,743.05	\$5,130.00
<b>Benevolence</b>		\$18,500.00	\$16,533.57	\$19,600.00
<b>Administration</b>		\$23,675.00	\$18,378.47	\$24,825.00
<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>		\$199,353.00	\$180,741.58	\$203,628.00
<b>Program Support Specialist</b>		\$17,202.00	\$0.00	\$17,202.00
<b>Evangelism</b>		\$600.00	\$93.60	\$500.00
<b>Stewardship</b>		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
<b>Fellowship</b>		\$2,125.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
<b>Women's Ministry</b>		\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
<b>Youth Ministry</b>		\$350.00	\$0.00	\$1,400.00
<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>		\$20,170.00	\$16,010.35	\$18,970.00
<b>Social Concerns</b>		\$200.00	\$36.99	\$100.00
<b>Start-up Ministry Support</b>		\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
	<b><i>Total for General Fund</i></b>	<b><i>\$297,100.00</i></b>	<b><i>\$234,723.77</i></b>	<b><i>\$299,555.00</i></b>
 <b><i>Income - Expense</i></b>		<hr/> <b><i>\$741.28</i></b> <hr/>		

# 2017 Statistical Report

Total Number of Services:	185	
Number of Special Services (included in total):	6	
Guest Speakers during the Year:	2	
Total Number of Individuals Bringing the Word:	9	
Baptized membership at end of 2016		<u>Baptized</u> 1250
Baptized Members Received during 2017		
a. By baptism-children (15 yrs and younger)	9	
b. By baptism-adults (16 yrs and older)		
c. By affirmation of faith (New-member)		
d. By transfer	1	
e. From other sources and statistical adjustment		
Total Members Received during 2017		10
Baptized Members Removed during 2017		
a. By death	3	
b. By transfer	4	
c. For other reasons and statistical adjustment		
Total Members Removed during 2017		7
Membership end of 2017		1253
<hr/>		
Number of baptized (Current-member) youth confirmed in 2017	12	
Family Units 12/31/17	356 (2017)	355 (2016)
Vacation Bible School Enrollment	98 (2017)	72 (2016)
Total Average Weekly Attendance		
January 1 - December 31	164 (2017)	178 (2016)
Average Weekly Attendance during 2017		
January 1 - May 21	Sun 8 AM - 40 Sun 10 AM - 72	Wed 7 PM - 66 Sat 5 PM - 17
May 28 - September 3      (Summer Worship Schedule)	Sun 9:30 AM - 66	Wed 7 PM - 14
September 10 - December 31	Sun 8 AM - 40 Sun 10 AM - 83	Wed 7 PM - 60 Sat 5 PM - 25
Ministerial Acts of 2017:		
Baptisms	9	
Confirmation	12	
Weddings	4 (4 non-member)	
Funerals	6 (3 non-member)	



# ***INVITING ALL***

## **WORSHIP**

Bells  
Choir  
Cantata  
Easter Cantata  
Worship Time  
Advent Liturgy by Tammy Jarvi  
Ecumenical Worships (River Days, Thanksgiving,  
Crow River Christmas)  
Lenten Worship Theme –“Change”  
Facebook Live  
Christmas Eve Worship  
Christmas Caroling

## **LEARN**

Confirmation (including Confirmands)  
Sunday School (Christmas Program)  
Vacation Bible School  
First Communion  
Baptism  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bibles  
Men's/Women's Retreats

## **DISCIPLE**

Love Languages - Sarah Dahl, Liz Nuytten  
Wishing Well  
Dimes for Disciples/Dinner (Thanksgiving Turkeys)  
Youth Gathering 2018 – Fundraiser Sales  
Seminarian Support  
STRIVE  
Grief Ministry: from endings to new beginnings;  
thriving through loss and pain  
Sustainable Giving  
Prayer and Healing Ministry  
via de Cristo  
Home & Hospital Visits

## **SERVE**

Men's Ministry  
Women's Ministry  
Veterans Support  
God's Work our Hands  
Thousand Hearts Crow River Serve Day  
Thrift Store sorting  
Food Shelf Volunteering  
Lunch Box Fever  
Meals On Wheels  
Quilting/Sewing Ministry

Love Inc. Bedding Ministry  
Rockford River days  
Grace Place Camp 2B and Learning Lounge  
Harvest Festival  
Halloween – No Tricks all Treats

## **PARTNERING:**

Boy/Cub Scouts  
Girl Scouts  
MOPS/Moms Next  
Tops  
AA  
BNI  
Grace Place  
Love Inc.  
Riverworks

## Annual Report 2017

Thank you to all of you that call OFLC home. You have given me a strong foundation to continue serving God. Your leadership and pastor are uniquely equipped to guide those seeking out God's call in their lives. Be praying how this can continue in this small congregation with a big heart to grow pastors and leaders of faith!

This year brought the completion of internship, candidacy approval and finishing classes at Luther Seminary. What's next? The ELCA ordains master of Divinity graduates seeking Word and Sacrament ministry, that's me, after they have been called to congregation. What does it mean to be called? Technically it is being hired by a congregation to serve as pastor for at least 15 hours a week following the synod's compensation guidelines for a regular call or term call position. Spiritually it means I am pressed by the Spirit through my prayers and actions into serving a community in ways that are affirming and Spirit lead. Others also in praying and discerning are tuned to a sense that I am to serve with them in the ministry. It is a beautiful and challenging time.

Reflecting back on this past year I have noticed what a blessing it was to serve the good people of Wooddale as intern pastor, a people who saw me as pastor from the beginning and encouraged and challenged me to grow in many unpredicted ways. It was also good to step away from Our Fathers for a time to really know if my deep connection to this community was the relationship of home congregation or calling to serve in more intentional ways.

My formal class work is complete and I realize what joy and purpose I find in learning and how it will inform my ministry moving forward. Being affirmed by the greater church to seek out a call in Word and Sacrament ministry has also made me aware of the challenges faced in being unable to relocate my family at this time. Please be praying for me as well as those God is preparing to serve with me that we may come together and serve God in wonderful and action-filled ways!

In Love and Thankfulness,

Cathy



## 2017 A Year of Tragedy, A Year of Grace, A Year of Hope

Reflection by: Brian Walton

These reflections will sound a lot like a synopsis of Brian's past year. Why? Because they are. My hope is you'll hear the gifts you shared. Please also listen as our statement of purpose is lived out: Worship, Learn, Disciple & Serve

As Marie and I entered 2017, it was a fresh year to connect with each other as the previous year had both of our children moving out on their own. It was just the two of us again, just as it started out so many years ago.

There was the fact that at the beginning of 2017, many life events were happening: I decided to leave church council, which for me was a big decision but felt it was right. I could spend the time with Marie and listen for what God was calling me into next. There was also the fact my brother (Jim) in Pennsylvania was in the last months of his life battling stage-four lung cancer. This is the first place God called me into.

Through my sister, I found out my brother was okay with having a funeral service, but only if I did it. In my brother's words, "He's the churchy one in the family." My brother wouldn't discuss anything about the service, so I was left to figure this out on my own. So I reached out to Pastor Jon on the "how," and all of you for prayers of strength and guidance. We lifted my brother up in worship, Pastor Jon taught, I learned, I continued being a disciple and served my family when they needed these gifts most. Okay, with lots of help from Marie doing the service pamphlets, thank you notes and love! Wow, God, that was a real big call, but thank you, God, for giving Jim & I the time to heal wounds and provide grace for each other until we meet again.

The next two months went by just fine as we did our best to support each other like families do. Spring break was approaching for Marie, and we decided not to go back to Pennsylvania this year and just use the time to relax at home and maybe get a project done or a book or two read; after all, it was Spring Break. It was during this time Marie also found out she had a tumor slightly larger than a baby's head in her abdomen. Now what? Since I'm no physician, I went to the only place I could go-- I went to God and my family of deep spirited friends. Marie and I quickly became comfortable with the surgeon, and together made the decision to remove the tumor as we felt it was part of the pain Marie had been experiencing for a while. Just a few days after surgery, Marie left this Kingdom and was welcomed home to her eternal life with our Savior. I share this part of the story so you can hear in the next part how the Kingdom is here and now for us as well as then for Marie and all those who believe.

I'm now going to share some reflections specifically from the first weeks of grief when I lost my best friend. None of this is to lift any one person up, or myself--it is to be a witness of how Jesus walks with us in this Kingdom all the time.

In the panic of the day, I naturally called my daughters, but the next call was to my Pastor who was not in the area, but he sent the closest disciple for immediate support. This helped to keep me grounded in the Lord. Then, disciple after disciple kept showing up to make sure we were okay and to make sure we wouldn't have to cook for the next week or two. Love God, Love Neighbor. I had no clue what to do the next morning, as it was Sunday, so I got up and went to worship knowing full well it could be viewed as crazy. But for me, it was where I needed to be. You see, I talked to God when this all started, and in my prayer, I told Him I would love Him no less no matter the outcome, because I know His love for me never changes. So I was going to do my human best to love Him, too.

Out of death comes resurrection, and one of those stories (there were many) happened during the long wait during Marie's wake. When one particular person reached me, they told me about how they were standing next to someone they had had a disagreement with for many years, but during the waiting, that fact was lifted up, grace moved in and healing began. Stories like this went on for hours and I have one of my own.

Marie's surgeon had called earlier in the week, and I had told her that I release her from any guilt she may be feeling as she used her God-given gifts to the best of her ability. Well, she showed up that night, and I remember placing my hands on each of her cheeks looking into her eyes and telling her how Marie and I trusted her so much and she needs to accept the gift of grace or she can't do what God called her to do. I could feel the weight leave the space as I told her God Loves her and so do I. That, my friends, is the Holy Spirit at work.

At the end of the night, my nephew--who came in from Oregon--said, "Uncle Brian, I don't understand, you and the girls stood there for hours as so many came in distraught and crying, yet after they left you, it was as though *they* were healed a little from the hurt and were even laughing not crying. Aren't they supposed to help *you* heal and support *you*?" It was then I think I somehow figured it out, and I told him that grief is an ugly personal mess with no two people reacting or feeling the same, but the healing from grief can only be done in community with others. I am so blessed to have a community who loves me like you all do. Worship, Learn, Disciple & Serve.

In July, the girls and I went back to see our family in Pennsylvania, and when we left as I said goodbye to my sister Patty, I felt as though something was wrong. It was just a week or so later she ended up in the hospital, and it was then she was told her cancer had spread throughout her body and there was nothing they could do. On July 31, she joined her brother and Marie in their eternal life together. My sister had gone church shopping in her area, but never settled into one. I called several asking them to do the service, and only one had the courage to tell me "no," and the rest never even responded. This says a lot about our OFLC community and how we listen to what God has called us to do. I've never heard of turning away from a relationship

request. That being said, God called me into doing yet another celebration of life service for a sibling. Again you entered in with me and didn't leave me alone. We prayed over more palm crosses, and more were sent. Worship, Learn, Disciple & Serve.

Okay, God, I did leave space for you to call me into something new, but my something was way different than what you called me to. *Just wait keep listening.* So the next time God called, I started out with a resounding "no." I thought of at least five excuses why I shouldn't help the stranded motorist at the Holiday Station. But the press was strong, so after leaving, I returned and entered into the request from God. As many of you know, LD and Keyona had just bought a vehicle, and it broke down right away. Immediately, I called those in the community I thought could help that night. The next week, we found out the issue wasn't a small one, so I reached out to the entire community of OFLC hoping for prayer as we tried to solve the issue. You all stepped in in a radical way showing Christ's love. Love God, Love Neighbor.

Jesus never promised a life of ease just because we decided to follow Him. In fact, He says in Luke 9:23, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." This is so important it's in Matthew 16:24, also. Take up your cross; "What, a cross? That is an instrument of death during Jesus' time!" Yes, your cross. You must die to the old self to be born to whom God made you to be. Just like baptism. Oh yeah, and it's not a "one and done;" it's daily my friends, daily. Without the death to myself, I would have no hope of seeing Marie again, but that is not the case. I'm full of hope. It doesn't mean I don't hurt some days. Okay, lots of days.

Before closing these reflections on 2017, I would like to share a few thoughts/phrases with you.

**No mistake is bigger than Jesus (so bring it to Him)**

**Hope = Confident Expectation**

**Come and Die (you're invited in to be forgiven daily and start new each day, heck every minute)**

Never forget: God Loves You and So Do I



# LITANY

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Amen.**

God has joined us to one another, in congregations, in our denomination, and with Christians around the world. As church together, we faithfully strive to participate in God's reconciling work, near and far.

**Together, we are partners in ministry.**

We plant new congregations and renew existing ones; we work with ethnic ministries to reach all God's people; we develop and share resources for God's work when we gather.

**Together, we are partners in ministry.**

We support The Lutheran World Federation's global communion of churches and send more than 200 missionaries to more than 40 countries; we facilitate dialogue and common action among communities of other faiths that God's love may spread far and wide.

**Together, we are partners in ministry.**

We equip current and future leaders through our colleges, universities, seminaries and lay ministry schools; we engage in hopeful conversation about current economic, environmental, political, public and social issues.

**Together, we are partners in ministry.**

Christ has freed us *from* sin and death, even from ourselves, so that we can live with and for our neighbors; in worship we cry out to be forgiven, fed and equipped that our faith may be aligned with our lives and our lives with God's good purposes.

**Scattered into the world, we do God's work.**

Sent into the world – in every relationship, in every daily task, in every corner of life – we provide daily bread for our neighbors, nurture hope and faith, and work for a healed, reconciled and just world.

**Scattered into the world, we do God's work.**

On the highway and in the skies, in jails and in offices, in the unemployment line and at the mechanic's shop, in kitchens and in classrooms, shopping for toys or hoping to find our next meal, in nursing homes and in the voting booth, God is at work, providing for our needs and for our neighbors' needs.

**Scattered into the world, we do God's work.**

Gracious God, you call us together, and you send us out. Give us strength to be your people, both when we gather and when we scatter. Deliver us from service of ourselves alone, and deliver us from service to the welfare of our congregations that we may do the work you are calling us to do, alone and together. Whether in our daily lives or in and through our congregation, may we always seek common good. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:  
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,  
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



*Refrain*  
Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan

Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter

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# REFLECTIONS ON OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE AND OUR WORK TOGETHER

Whether we are gathered in our faith community or sent into our daily lives, we remember that we are a new creation through God's living word by the power of the Holy Spirit, and we are to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed. As we live into God's word and deed, we are also reminded to be faithful stewards of God's creation and gifts. Faithful stewardship is about holding to God's purpose and ensuring the responsibilities and resources that God has entrusted to us are used with great care and with accountability to God, to each other and those served by the church.

With the adoption of Strategic Directions 2025 in 2017, the goals and priority areas for the ELCA as a whole church are identified. These goals and priorities are based on a shared trust and hope that the future is in God's hands. As stewards of God's grace, we are responsible for the time, talents and resources that will make these goals and priorities attainable in the many expressions of the church. As you consider your goals, priorities and resources for the years ahead, please consider how the following strategic directions are connected to your ministry.

## **A thriving church spreading the gospel and deepening faith for all people**

(Acts 1:8, 1 Peter 2:9-10, Matthew 28:16-20, Romans 1:16)

## **A church equipping people for their baptismal vocations in the world and the church**

(Philippians 2:4-11, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, Romans 6:3-4, Mark 10:13-16)

## **An inviting and welcoming church that reflects and embraces the diversity of our communities and the gifts and opportunities that diversity brings**

(1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 2:14-20, Acts 10, Galatians 3:26-28)

## **A visible church deeply committed to working ecumenically and with other people of faith for justice, peace and reconciliation in communities and around the world**

(2 Corinthians 5:14-21, John 13:12-15, Isaiah 58:1-11)

## **A well-governed, connected and sustainable church**

(1 Corinthians 4:1-2, 2 Corinthians 4:1-2, Micah 6:8, 2 Corinthians 9)

