

CONGREGATIONAL Annual Report 2018



Our **small acts** of **kindness** can create **a huge impact.**

Nestled in the heart of downtown Ottawa, the congregation of St. Peter's puts together chili lunches for their homeless neighbours. Congregants team up in an effort to extend their hand and blessing upon local members of the homeless community, providing warm meals for those dealing with poverty within the downtown core.

In Mission for Others.

Across the church and across the country, congregations have been living out the call to be *In Mission for Others*. Through community outreach, fundraising projects, inter-denominational services and in a variety of other ways, communities have been sharing their gifts with their neighbours.

Photo by Jocelyn and Rev. Greg Smith.



Worshippers gather for a candlelight service on Christmas Eve at Soul Café at Grace, Eganville, ON. The combination of meeting in a fellowship hall, while providing a denominationally neutral environment helps provide a casual, comfortable church environment.

Photo by Ray Hook.



The women of Edberg Lutheran in Alberta carry out a 50-plus year tradition of preparing goody boxes for local people/families in need every Christmas. On top of filling the boxes with Christmas baking and other treats, they also give out handmade quilts to those in need each fall.

Photo by Mahmood Mavani.



Photo by Rev. Sheldon Gattinger.



Above, left: Trinity, Edmonton, held an interfaith service on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017, lifting up reconciliation following Luther's historic actions 500 years earlier. Guest speakers from a variety of faith and cultural backgrounds shared messages of hope, unity and reconciliation. Above, right: A ceremonial ribbon-cutting at the grand opening of a transitional housing complex in North Battleford, SK. The North Battleford Transitional Living Initiative worked with many local establishments to help create a better housing situation with seven local First Nations communities.



Annual Report

2018

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Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
2019 Annual General Meeting of the Congregation
January 27,2019

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer and Remarks
2. Review and Confirm Agenda
 - Motion to accept/second/discussion/vote
3. Review and Approve the Minutes from the 2018 AGM
 - Actions resulting from the 2018 minutes
 - Motion to accept/second/discussion/vote
4. Adoption of Reports
 - Motion to accept/second/discussion/vote
5. Election of Board Members
 - Presentation from Nominating Committee
 - Nominations from the floor
 - Motion to accept/second/discussion/vote
6. Election of the 2019 Nominating Committee
 - Presentation from the Nominating Committee
 - Nominations from the floor
 - Motion to accept/second/discussion/vote
7. Motions from the Board
 - Review of 2018 Financial Statements
 - 2019 Budget presentation
 - a) Revenues
 - b) Expenditures
 - Motion to accept/second/discussion/vote
8. Other Business
 - Flourishing Congregation Survey
 - Questions from the Floor
9. Motion to Adjourn
 - Motion to accept/second/vote
10. Closing Prayer

Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
2018 Annual General Meeting of the Congregation
January 28, 2018

Minutes recorded by Rachelle Ellis.

Meeting called to order at 10:07 am by Garry Mihaichuk with 84 members in attendance.

1. Opening Prayer and Remarks – Pastor Lee Woolery and Garry Mihaichuk

- A. Garry – The notice of the Annual General Meeting was made in the two subsequent Sunday Bulletins. I therefore note that the meeting was duly called in accordance with our Constitution and with a quorum of members (35 members) we are constituted to proceed with the 2018 AGM.
- B. Pastor Lee – opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Review and Confirm Agenda

- A. The agenda was confirmed with no amendments.
- B. Motion to accept by Jaqui Anderson/seconded by Phyllis Gale/discussion-none/vote-carried

3. Review and Approve the Minutes from the 2017 AGM

- A. Actions resulting from the 2017 minutes
 - i. There was a question regarding the Board's intention for the use of funds held by the Memorial Fund. We have been discussing the repairs of the organ with another donor and between that donor and the Memorial Funds we think we can fully refurbish the organ.
 - ii. Another question was with regard to the establishment and funding of a Capital Fund. This fund has been established and has been additionally funded with \$25,000 from surplus cash to provide a vehicle to complete repairs.
 - iii. Other questions or errors or omissions from last year's minutes?
 - a. Error: Meeting called to order should read 12:13pm not 12:13am.
 - b. Error: Spelling of some members' names. The corrected spellings are Roger Eng, Carolyn Anderson and Shaaron Schulz.
 - c. Question: Debra Aichele asked about the insurance money for the organ. Garry replied that the insurance money has already been used to get the organ to working order. However, there are still some work that are required to return the organ to original sound quality.
- B. Motion to accept the corrected minutes made by Doug Drennan/seconded by Janice Hawkings/discussion-none/vote-carried

4. Adoption of Reports

- A. The reports have been presented in the materials that were provided for the 2018 AGM. Are there any questions for any of the individuals or groups that have provided information?
- B. Questions from the congregation: Non
- C. Motion to accept by Bob Montgomery/seconded by Alex McKay/discussion-none/vote-carried

5. Election of Board Members

- A. Presentation from Nominating Committee – Deb Montgomery
 - i. Bob Montgomery 6th Term
 - ii. Jens Kaack 5th Term
 - iii. Darren Tenor 4th Term
 - iv. Doug Gerbrandt 3rd Term
 - v. Shirley Moule 2nd Term
 - vi. Avril LeBlanc 2nd Term
 - vii. Les Walker 1st Term
 - viii. Dale Mass 1st Term
 - ix. Nick Perchthaler 1st Term
- B. Nominations from the floor-none
- C. Motion to accept by Cliff Blumhagen/seconded by Terry Lee McKay/discussion-none/vote-carried

6. Nominations and Election of Synodical Delegates to ELCIC National Convention

- A. Presentation from Nominating Committee-Deb Montgomery with a printed report that was distributed to interested members.
 - i. 2018 ABT Synod Convention-Bob Keith
 - ii. 2019 National Convention-Garry Mihaichuk
- B. Nominations from the floor-none
- C. Motion to accept by Debra Aichele/seconded by Doug Gerbrandt/discussion-none/vote-carried

7. Election of the 2018 Nominating Committee

- A. Presentation from the Nominating Committee – Deb Montgomery
 - i. Deb Montgomery
 - ii. Lori Todd
 - iii. Carolyn Anderson
 - iv. Debra Starratt
- B. Nominations from the floor-none

- C. Motion to accept by Phyllis Gale /seconded by Pat Farn/discussion-none/vote-carried

8. Motions from the Board

- A. Review of 2017 Financial Statements – Doug Drennan
- B. 2018 Budget presentation – Doug Drennan
 - i. Revenues
 - ii. Expenditures
- C. Garry thanked Doug and Cliff for their dedicated work on the financials.
- D. Questions from the congregation: None
- E. Motion to accept by Jaqui Anderson /seconded by Debra Aichele/discussion-none/vote-carried

9. Other Business

A. *Testamentary Trusts and Foundations:*

We have been looking at methods for the congregation members who are interested to be able to make testamentary donations to the church. One of the most effective methods is the use of self-directed foundations. The foundation invests the principal in a low risk investment or uses the donor's securities (stocks and bonds) and the distributions are made tax free to the charitable entity. These allow the beneficiaries to be able to determine what the distributions are used for and therefore become an opportunity to teach future generations philanthropy. Because the distributions are only the yield or interest of these investments they go on in perpetuity.

One of the issues historically has been the cost to establish and manage the foundation. If an individual establishes a foundation with a commercial bank it can cost \$10,000 or more and can have a high management fees to administer the fund. This meant that only those that were establishing large sums were able to complete. There has been a change, in that public foundations such as the Calgary Foundation, are now allowing individuals to set up a self-directed foundation with a minimum of a \$10,000 investment. The estimated annual yield is \$400 with a management fee of 1.25%. The donor is in control of where these funds will be directed for charitable entities in Canada and beyond and the donations will be available for over 100 years.

Thus, anyone who is interested in testamentary giving can set it up either before their passing or on their passing to accomplish these goals.

If you are interested I would be pleased to discuss further.

Questions from the congregation:

- i. Pat Farn: Does the tax receipt for the principal go to your estate?

Garry replied: You get the tax receipt at the time of deposit of the funds into the foundation. If you use stocks, you don't have to pay the withholding tax.

- ii. Teresa Mayan: Is there an online source to get more information?

Garry replied: You can search on the Calgary Foundation website for detailed information.

- iii. Sheri Pearson: Is this a private foundation? What happens to the principal? What part of the \$400 that goes to the church?

Garry replied: This is a self-directed foundation. It is your own foundation within the Calgary Foundation and you can determine where you want the yield proceeds to go. The principal can be perpetual. The \$400 is the interest you made on the principal (\$10,000 example with a 100 year term) and is the part that is donated every year so your foundation can be everlasting. The principal is always there unless you want a limited term foundation in which case you would also use part of the principal each year until it is gone. A foundation is a way to invest and provide donations.

- vi. Cliff Blumhagen: Are you restricted for the beneficiary to be within Calgary?

Garry replied: The beneficiary can be anywhere within Canada and even internationally.

B. *Evaluation Process of ELCIC National Synod Congregation Constitution Model*

The Board has established a special committee to:

- i. Evaluate the difference between the ELCIC National Synod's 2017 model congregational constitution and the existing 2012 LCOS constitution;
- ii. Discuss these changes with the congregation and the Board and reach consensus on a LCOS proposal; and
- iii. Make a recommendation to the Board on the changes to the 2012 LCOS constitution to harmonize it with the ELCIC National Synod's 2017 model congregational constitution but make it appropriate for LCOS. The committee will be headed by the Past Board Chair (Garry Mihaichuk) and will include members of the congregation. After the approval of the Board there will be a Special Congregational meeting called to approve the new 2018 LCOS Constitution and ByLaws.

Questions from the congregation:

- i. Margaret Heimbigner: Members might need to see the new constitutional model to know what questions to ask.

Garry replied: This can be found on the ELCIC National Synod's website for your review.

- ii. Sheri Pearson: How many would be on the special committee?

Garry replied: The committee would ideally be two or three members from the congregation.

- iii. The group should not be large but diverse enough to have some different perspectives. It would be helpful for the members to have a background in governance.
- iv. Cliff Blumhagen: What is the timeframe for this to be completed?

Garry replied: It should be completed in the next six to 9 months. It is not something to rush through but should be completed by the fall of 2018. After it has been approved by LCOS, it will need to be returned to the AB Synod for approval so there will be some back and forth until its final approval.

C. *Other Questions from the Floor*

- i. Comment from Bob Montgomery: This is Garry's last year on the board. He has done a great job and has put in a lot of work. He is willing to stay as Past Chair for the constitution model so we are very blessed. Thanks from the congregation for all your fine work.
- ii. Darren Tenor: Our volunteers do an excellent job but do we need to expand so that instead of one principal person for a particular area, can we diversify and have more people involved as a subcommittee for that area? Darren has a concern that our main volunteers are getting older and may have other needs. How do we support them if they need a break?

Garry replied: The board had a board subcommittee whose role was to oversee how to support our volunteers. This needs to continue for the next board. We need to decide how we can let people know where the needs are. There are a few core people that do the majority of the work; we need to avoid burnout.

Debra Aichele commented: Hope Lutheran hired a volunteer coordinator.

Garry replied: We will look into it and take it back to the board.

Shaaron Schulz commented: They attended a church in Edmonton where every person in the church was assigned a group. For an event such as Hot Dog Sunday, each group was assigned a date and you were expected to help when it was your group's turn.

Pat Farn commented: People may be afraid to volunteer for a certain job as they don't know what they are getting into. Perhaps we can highlight a particular job and what it entails and then people can decide if it is something they are interested in.

Jens Kaack replied: We are going to have a day on April 21 where people can find out what their gifts are. This day will help identify your gifts and then you can volunteer in an area where you are gifted and suited for.

Garry replied: These are all great suggestions and we can work on different ideas. The next board should discuss.

10. Motion to Adjourn – at 10:59am

Motion to accept by Doug Drennan/seconded by Joe Schulz/vote-carried

11. Closing Prayer led by Bob Montgomery

Chairperson's Report

Submitted by: Bob Montgomery



As we welcome in another year and the challenges it may bring, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve our community as your Board Chair. Over the 27 years Debbie and I have been members at LCOS, this is my third time as your Board Chair. Our Constitution & Good Governance practice requires Board members to change regularly & I have reached the maximum time allowed, so after this AGM I will be leaving the Board to make room for a new group and looking for new ways to serve LCOS.

Over my term as Chair, I have been encouraged by the quality of service provided by your Board. Your elected representatives have rarely missed a meeting and been highly engaged on all issues before them. I am equally encouraged by the new group your Nomination Committee have determined will allow their names to stand as incoming members. I am confident they will serve with the same diligence.

As you know, 2018 was particularly challenging. As we continued to grieve the passing of Gretchen Woolery, Pastor Lee advised of his decision to retire. After 14 years of caring for our community, it's hard to 'move on' - probably for both of us. I am excited for him though and eager to hear about where his next adventures may take him. In addition, in 2018 our community said good bye to dear friends and long-time members. Depending on how close you may have been and to whom, you are most likely grieving those losses as well. Combined, our community has journeyed through some difficult times.

At the same time, the light of Christ has been shining brightly and we have made a difference in the lives of others. The Spirit of love and compassion I saw when I first walked through the doors of LCOS continues. Our refugee family are adapting to life in Canada & meeting the challenges that accompany it. Shoeboxes continue to be made for Operation Christmas Child and our service to community ministries and mission activity continues. THIS is what makes our community thrive. When each of us commits to treating 'our neighbor as ourselves', God smiles and THIS is why we have flourished as a congregation. As another year takes shape, I would ask each of you to take a few moments and consider how your life makes a difference at LCOS and beyond. If you feel a tug to volunteer or help in any way, don't hesitate; if you aren't sure where your unique gifting may 'fit', ask Pastor Julianne or someone you trust. Follow through on what God may be asking you to do and watch how you grow as a result!

In 2018, new members continue to make LCOS their home and some ...have returned! One particular couple told me they wanted to come back to 'their church'. At Lee's retirement Bishop Telmor Sartisan told me he felt as if he was "a member of our congregation"; I told him he was and would always be. Since the days of the 'German Shepherd' (Pastor Bill Roesler), 'Our Saviour Church' has committed to be much more than a club or mutual admiration society. That vision continues even in our period of transition to a new Pastor.

Many of you will remember the 'uncertain' months after Pastor Harold resigned. Who would we find? How long would it take? How will we carry on until then? We committed to continue being the people God wants us to be regardless of circumstance and we trusted God would provide the right leader for us. God provided and Pastor Lee became our Shepherd. As we face another uncertain time, I ask that you spend time in prayer for our community and for our yet undetermined new Pastor. I am confident God is always faithful and will provide exactly what we need, when we need it; our job is to continue to be the person He wants us to be and to trust that He will do His job. - In His Service, Bob Montgomery

Human Resources Ministry

Submitted by: **Walter Hall**

This was a challenging year for our staff team. As we approached 2018 we were confident about a strong 2018 as we had inspired, sensitive and efficient team players in place. We were confident in our ongoing programs and active small group participation. This changed with the sudden loss of Pastor Lee's wife, Gretch. A profound sense of loss developed at all levels, then a later sense of uncertainty coming with Pastor Lee's decision to take his long deserved retirement. Pastor Lee's unique ministry was built on fostering a caring, supportive structure based on getting the best from the skills of his team members. A change, any change, would inevitably upset that interrelationship.

Pastor Lee, Jesse Ramson and Katharine Heimbigner Tenor, all very effective in their demanding positions, were complimented with the addition in the early new year of Judy McDonald as Office Assistant, and with the support of Arianna Tenor as she efficiently covered for summer staff breaks.

The retirement of Pastor Lee posed a great challenge for our call committee but we were blessed with Pastor Julianne Barlow's acceptance of our Interim Transitional Ministry position. Pastor Julianne, highly respected in our Calgary church community, chose to leave a position as Assistant to the Bishop of our Alberta Synod to lead our ministry at Our Saviour while we continue our call process to find a long term replacement for Pastor Lee. It is noteworthy that she served in ministry to our church family prior to deciding to attend seminary to become a pastor, and has been warmly welcomed back by long term members.

This year we saw instances of individual staff growing in their own ministry careers.

- Jesse Ramson continues his studies, working toward his Masters Degree in Divinity, with graduation projected for the summer of 2019. This is an excellent achievement considering the challenging, heavily time demanding program he has structured for our younger church members in his position of Director of Children and Youth Ministry.
- Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor continues to take demanding courses offered by our Lutheran Seminary in Saskatoon. These courses provide greater insight into Christian Ministry and will broaden her skills beyond the strong office administration leadership she provides in her position of Administration and Congregational Care.

The highlight of the year was the retirement send off for Pastor Lee in August. Pastor Lee with his gentle, sensitive ministry, had developed a tremendous respect and loyalty from his flock at our Saviour, and indeed from our larger Lutheran community and from the many social justice agencies with which he served over the years. Surrounded by family and friends we had a joyous farewell party with a fine meal and an entertainment program combining serious tributes and humorous skits recalling his ministry at Our Saviour.

Going forward we will continue our mission to find and call a strong candidate for our future Senior Pastor Position. Pastor Julianne will assist our search committee in defining the priority factors for our congregation in searching for the proper and best candidate to serve our ministry needs. She is already taking a more hands on approach to our administrative structure and is reassessing the expectations and responsibilities for each of our staff members. We can look forward with confidence as our congregation plans to serve our future local and broader church community.

Call Committee Report

Submitted by: Garry Mihaichuk

The year ended tragically for the Call Committee with the passing of our secretary Rachelle Ellis. Her contribution to the Call Committee was deeply appreciated by myself and all of the members of the Call Committee and this year's report is dedicated to her memory.

The Call Committee was formed on May 14th prior to two important meetings:

- 1) Synod exit interview with Pastor Lee and LCOS Board on May 15th; and
- 2) Call Committee meeting with Bishop Larry to discuss the call process on May 23rd.

The make-up of the Call Committee was 50% male and 50% female and has :

- 1) Six (6) representatives from:
 - i) mature aged/time in congregation members;
 - ii) middle aged/time in congregation members; and
 - iii) younger age/time in congregation members;
- 2) LCOS Board Chair/Vice Chair;
- 3) Long time congregational member;
- 4) Chair; and
- 5) Secretary.

The following were the names of the committee members:

Chair	Garry Mihaichuk
Secretary	Bev Lillywhite
	Jens Kaack
	Karen Smith
	Keith Rude
	Jennifer Sissons
	Arianna Tenor
	Leah Thormoset
	Bob Montgomery/Les Walker
	Alex McKay

The meeting on May 15th was an opportunity to share in success stories and opportunities for improvement. It was very successful and provided the call committee with valuable information going forward.

The meeting on May 23rd with Bishop Larry was a discussion of the journey and process that we are entering. His advice was this is a time for prayer and discernment. As a congregation and the Call Committee, may we pray for each other during this time and determine where God is leading us. May we, together, pray for wisdom and guidance in identifying our needs for God's work and to prayerfully select a candidate that we all feel God has lead us to.

The start of the process is a needs assessment which will include a congregational survey and congregational small group discussions over a 3-week period in February 2019. This will allow the Call Committee to develop a document (Congregation Mission Document) which will be provided to Bishop Larry to search for candidates.

These can come from three sources:

- 1) Congregational member suggestions (gathered during our meetings or sent to the Chair of the Call Committee);
- 2) Pastors who are looking for a call or discerning whether they should be looking for a call; and
- 3) Discussions with Pastors and Bishops on candidates that match our Congregation Mission Document.

In June a discussion started into investigations for an interim pastor after the announcement of Pastor Lee's retirement. We reviewed the options and met with the Bishop and discussed a number of considerations when we consider an interim pastor candidate:

- 1) The prime objective during this interim period was to continue all activities and focus on the same basis as in the past;
- 2) That the candidate has a good "fit" with the congregation as concerns service style and formality and
- 3) That the focus and interest of the pastor was consistent with that of the congregation i.e. missional focus and congregational support and care.

The Interim Pastor candidate involved interviews with two Call Committee members and two Board members to provide a broader perspective on the candidate. At this interview we discussed what was the appropriate "type" of interim ministry for LCOS which varied from:

- 1) Supply;
- 2) Regular Supply;
- 3) Part-time Interim;
- 4) Full-time Interim; and
- 5) Intentional Interim.

We discussed the difference between Full-time Interim and Intentional Interim which essentially was Intentional provided Full-time plus:

- 1) The congregation with an opportunity to understand the congregational identity and mission and
- 2) To facilitate a grieving process for the staff and the congregation.

From our discussion of the current state of the congregation and staff, the recommendation was that the Intentional Interim model would provide the most value.

The interim pastor candidate and Intentional Interim model was presented to the LCOS Board and both were approved on August 14, 2018. The Bishop was contacted and recommended the appointment of Pastor Julianne Barlow and the timing of the Interim Pastor being October 22, 2018. This timing was required to provide adequate timing for Pastor Julianne to give due notice and be released from their Synod assignments.

During the period from Pastor Lee's retirement at the end of August until the start of the interim pastor, Katharine continued to provide the excellent planning for the regular services which included sermons completed by a variety of supply pastors and individuals. Thanks to Katharine for all of her efforts during 2018 to keep the LCOS family services going and the congregation engaged.

The congregational survey is designed by Flourishing Congregations Institute which is part of Ambrose University. Arianna Tenor will be presenting it at the AGM and the survey and meetings will run the first three weeks of February 2019!

If you have any questions or suggestions during this time as concerns the calling of a new pastor please feel free to contact me at 403-975-0081 or gmihaichuk@me.com.

Nominating Committee

Submitted by: Debbie Montgomery

The responsibilities of the Nominating Committee are:

- Find new LCOS Board members to fill positions on the Board which have become vacant. This is completed each November-December prior to the AGM.
- Find delegates from the congregation to act as delegates at either the National Convention or the Synod Convention.

LCOS's Board consisted of the following members in 2018:

Bob Montgomery – Chair	Les Walker – Vice-Chair
Avril LeBlanc	Doug Gerbrandt
Jens Kaack	Dale Mass
Shirley Moule	Darren Tenor
Nick Perchthaler	

The following members have agreed to allow their names to stand for the Church Board in 2019:

Brent Anderson 1st year	Alfred Forbrich 1st year
Doug Gerbrandt 4th year	Johanne Johanson 1st year
Jens Kaack 6th year	Dale Mass 2nd year
Iain McKay 1st year	Garry Mihaichuk 1st year
Shirley Moule 3rd year	Nick Perchthaler 2nd year
Darren Tenor 5th year	Les Walker 2nd year

In 2015, the National Church adopted a new governance structure that included provisions to reduce the size of national conventions. The previous system of biennial conventions has been replaced with a triennial, or three-year cycle. That means there is a Synod Convention the first year, the National Convention the second year, and NO convention during the third year. In 2018 there was an ABT Synod Convention, in 2019 there will be a National Convention, and in 2020 there is NO convention.

Garry Mihaichuk has allowed his name to stand to represent LCOS at the National Convention. However, under the new triennial system, LCOS would have to be elected in order to attend the National Convention. At this time, it has not been determined whether LCOS has been elected to send a delegate to the National Convention.

The Nominating Committee for 2018 consisted of: Carolyn Anderson, Debbie Montgomery, Debra Starratt and Lori Todd. Carolyn Anderson, Debbie Montgomery, Debra Starratt and Lori Todd have all agreed to let their names stand for the Nominating Committee is 2019.

Staff Reports

These people are paid servants at Our Saviour

Pastor Report

Submitted by: Pastor Julianne Barlow

The Word Transforms Us

Sharing in a story is powerful. The Word of God connects deeply in our beings, transforming us.

At the age of 40, William Parker wrote this hymn in response to the children of his Sunday School class asking for another story.

*Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
Things I would ask Him to tell me if He were here;
Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.*

*First let me hear how the children stood round His knee,
And I shall fancy His blessing resting on me;
Words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
All in the love light of Jesus' face.*

If you were asked by your neighbour, co-worker or friend to share your favourite story about Jesus which would you choose? Would it be Jesus fishing with his friends, Jesus inviting and encouraging the children in the crowd, Jesus acknowledging the woman at the well, or Mary, Martha, and Lazarus?

Our 2018 Story

I once had someone say to me – “I give money to the Cancer Society because they make a difference and I don’t know how the church makes a difference.”

The line items in our budget help us to compare year to year and make sound financial decisions. When we look at the stories of the LCOS ministries we can easily recognize how this congregation makes a difference as an inviting growing Christian presence with a passion for living and sharing Jesus Christ.

Our words and actions reflect God’s mission and we offer financial support through the church to translate God’s mission (reconciliation, redemption and restoration) into action.

How did LCOS make a difference in 2018? The answer lies with all of us, our actions and our words, our attitudes and even our thoughts. Did you listen to a stranger with honest interest? Have you had an ah ha moment or a moment of deep gratitude? Have you encouraged or walked with someone during a difficult year? Were you intentionally generous, giving before you were asked?

In 2018, our neighbours joined us in VeBS, celebrated at the stampede breakfast, attended the games group and checked out youth events. We **invited** people to worship with smiles and sincere interest, great music and fellowship. Truly all were welcomed.

As a **growing Christian presence**, we have experienced differing ideas and thoughts as well as the challenge of confessing, repenting and forgiving each other and ourselves. All ages had opportunities to explore God’s love in studies of the Biblical narrative, and grew in faith and service. From young explorers, affirmation of faith group, youth, applied theory to Sunday morning adult group, there was a growth opportunity for everyone.

With a **passion for living as followers of Jesus** we worked with Lutheran Hospital Ministries, SW Area Refugees, Samaritan’s Purse, the Mustard Seed, the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good and more. Ladies made lunches for Acadia schools and we visited each other when we were in hospital or alone. Our passion for sharing Jesus Christ was expressed as benevolence to the Synod, urgent care, the giving tree, Lenten bags and food banks to name a few.

The difference LCOS has made in 2018 has been relational, living and caring as an expression of God’s mission!

What will our 2019 story be?

What Biblical story best expresses who we are and who God is calling us to be?

What is our identity?

Where is God forming and reforming us?

How will we join into God’s plans for our neighbourhood?

Director of Children and Youth Ministry Report

Submitted by: Jesse Ramson

The Experiment Student Ministries

Once again, we have had a great year in our Experiment Student Ministry program, or otherwise known as the youth group. The excitement has been split between Sunday classes and some fantastic Saturday events. For our events, we have a special outing twice a month on Saturday nights, usually the second and fourth one of the month. Some events are challenges, such as the Baking Challenge or the Amazing Race, while others are outreach events like the Christmas Café or the Coldest Night of the Year. We also have special outings for events, like Monster Mini Golf, Swimming and more. We also meet every Sunday morning at 10am for a study time. Our study times are structured to be fun, interactive, and memorable. So far this year we have joined with the rest of the congregation in the study of Dr. Preston Pouteaux's book *The Bees of Rainbow Falls*, although of course our youth brought an entirely new and fresh perspective to the topic.

Another exciting highlight from this year was the week we spent at the Mustard Seed in downtown Calgary participating in a program called the DemoCrew in the summer. This was such an incredible week of growth, in terms of perspective regarding our communities, in terms of relationships with each other, and in terms of our faith. Honestly, the memories from that week will last forever, I am certain. This year we are hoping to participate in another outreach program, whether that be the DemoCrew again or something similar. We also have an eye out for CLAY 2020, which is the gathering of Anglican and Lutheran youth groups from across Canada. 2020 will see Calgary as the host city, at SAIT.

Another big aspect of student ministries is meeting youth where they are. I have made an intentional effort to attend as many external programs that the youth are participating in wherever possible. I hope that this year marks the continuation of this effort, but also growth in terms of identifying different mentors and facilitating discipleship relationships.

Currently, we have 13 youth, with an average attendance of 8 per night event, and 5 per Sunday class.

Young Explorers Children Ministries

Our Young Explorers Children Ministry exists for those Ages 3 – Grade 6. We meet every Sunday morning throughout September to May at 10am, with volunteer teachers guiding the children split into two groups (Ages 3-5, Grades 1-6) through crafts, science, games, music, videos, and of course, Bible discussions. This year, we continued with the curriculum called Dig In, which is made by the same organization that builds our VBS program. The program is structured around creativity and openness, allowing each teacher to craft their own unique lesson in about 5 minutes. The curriculum makes use of a wide variety of simple technology to better engage teachers and children. The focus has been on the life of Jesus. This is a unique approach, but much needed.

We currently have a fantastic team of 9 volunteers that rotate through the teaching schedule. Of course, we could always use more volunteers, and would love for some additional people to join the team. Materials are provided to fit each teacher's personal lesson every Sunday morning.

This year, we have 8 ages 3 to 5 children registered, with an average attendance of 5 per morning. We have 6 Grades 1 to 3 registered, with an average attendance of 3. We have 4 Grade 4 to 6 registered, with an average attendance of 2.

As part of our Young Explorers ministry, we also have special Family events, such as the Advent Craft, Lent Craft, or parties such as the Launch Party, or the Year End party. These events are heavily attended, with an average of 28 people total coming out.

For the upcoming year, the focus is on building up commitment and attendance. We have started some initiatives to be even more welcoming to the new families that visit our church, and will continue to do so. We also want to build as much excitement around our program as possible, so that every Sunday morning, children are flocking into the classroom. This year also marks the end of the Life of Jesus sequence that we have been following, so a new theme will be used in September. Right now the plan is to use another Dig In theme, this time called Digging Into the Heart of God: Reflecting God in Everyday Life.

Tween Experiences

Always one of the highlights of our programming is our Tween nights. Happening once a month, usually on the first Saturday night of the month, we have a wide array of fun, themed events that our tweens love to invite their friends to. The group is geared towards those in Grade 4 to 6, although we do sometimes have some of our junior youth join. The group really acts as a bridge into youth group, providing an opportunity to build relationships, experience a small group setting, and of course, learn more about God and develop their faith together.

Most of our events are hosted here at the church, with themed activities like game night, Fear Factor, and mystery night. New this year, we've also tried some events at community locations. So far we've visited the Calgary Corn Maze, and have plans to also make a trip to the Bow Habitat Station. Each event tends to be educational, loads of fun, and fantastic relationship building opportunities.

We currently have 10 registered with an average attendance of 8. The exciting thing about this group is the amount of new visitors we have for each event!

The Applied Theory

This year, we decided to combine the College and Careers group with the Applied Theory group formed last year. This makes it a true young adult small group filled with a wide range of ages. We have Grade 11s to 30 somethings together, having fun every night! We meet once a month on the third Saturday of the month for a fun night geared around the continued development of relationships that have realistically started being formed even in elementary school! We want to provide a space for these students and young adults paving their way into a career to come together, relax, connect with God, and end up supporting each other. The aim is to have these adults stay together, stay with the church, and most importantly stay with God during such an important time of development in their life, one that is filled with stress and successes. This small group supports and rejoices! So far, we have an average of 8 people attending each event, with approximately 15 actually registered.

So far this year, we've done events like a Christmas Mall Shopping Hunt, laser tag, a Hitmen Game, and a Board Game Night. Coming up, we have another Game night, a Study night, a visit to the Board Game Café, and a few other things.

The Family Group

This is another new group for this year. Every third Friday of the month, families of all ages are invited to join us for some fun activities, like movie nights, craft nights, challenges, and much more. The idea behind this group is to be outreach events that all families can attend, whether they are families of the congregation, visitors, or families of the community. We saw a great opportunity to continue to connect with the people that attended VBS that weren't members of church elsewhere. So far the group has taken a little while to actually get rolling. We currently have an average of 4 families attending, with the potential of reaching many, many more.

So far this year, we've done bowling, a movie night, a Christmas Classic night, and a Superhero Night. Coming up, we have a Craft night, a Skating night, a Swimming night, and much more!

Vacation Bible School

VBS was quite the hit this year. Our week was themed after "Shipwrecked" and the whole week was geared around the idea that Jesus Rescues! We had a wonderful team of volunteers, close to 30 people total, helping us out in whatever manner they could. We consistently hit 80 children each day out of 82 registered, which was an increase over last year, in terms of maximum numbers, and the fact that most children came every single day! Of those 80, we had 16 from LCOS (20%), 30 from other churches (37.5%), and 34 unchurched (42.5%). We also rose close to 380\$ for irrigation systems for farmers in Ethiopia. This is a cause that is done by the CLWR in partnership with the ELCIC, the Canadian government, and the Canadian Food Bank. Overall, it was a fantastic week, and we had to the chance to implement ideas from last year that drastically influenced how smoothly this year went. For example, we enhance safety measures by introducing ID bracelets (thanks to Margaret H.!) to keep each kid in their crew. We also added a new online registration form, which drastically reduced the wait time on Monday morning. Perhaps for the first time ever in the history of VBS at this church, we actually started on time!

Next year's theme is Roar! or basically a safari week, which should be tons of fun. We'll continue to ramp up our improvements, including adding our online signature form to our website, investing in better tablecloths for snack time and as meeting spots, and researching better methods to run our preschool program.

Administration and Congregational Care Report

Submitted by: Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor

In March 2019 I will be celebrating seven years as an employee at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour. Long time members might remember that this is the second time I have been an employee at LCOS. My first round was for three summers while a University student. Very long-time members may even remember my baptism! With such deep roots in this community I have traveled much of LCOS's path as a congregation member, volunteer, board member and employee.

The path of life for people, organizations and churches are filled with blessings and challenges. For ministry the blessings come in the form of celebrations marking the great moments of life and the challenges often come when we walk beside those experiencing difficulty. With these deep roots sometimes those blessings and challenges are magnified as I say good bye to people I have known and cared for a very long time. However, even in challenges, I see the blessings because I see each and everyone of our church family filled with broken people shining God's love.

The blessings come through countless acts such as phone calls, texts, prayers, home visits, hospital visits, food drop-offs, saying yes to new volunteer tasks, patience and support for those struggling in grief and pain and countless other acts of love. Thank you to all of you for every gesture of love you show to me, my family, the LCOS family and our community far and wide. I am deeply honored to be part of the staff at LCOS as we continue to live out what it means to be In Mission.

Below you will find a mixture of activities that the congregation participated in for 2018. Some of the items were led by Pastor Lee and as such I have taken the liberty to comment on for the sake of posterity.

Coldest Night of the Year:

For the fifth year in a row, we had an LCOS team participate in this now annual cross Canada walk. Our CHILL team (Christians Helping Individuals Lift Lives) is typically one of the largest teams in Calgary year after year. The team is made up of youth, children, adults and seniors. Fundraising typically takes place over the month of February and is done with personal donations and other activities such as bake sales. Over the course of five years the CHILL team has raised over \$22,000. Across Canada the money raised stays local and is used to support the hurting and homeless in our community. We look forward to participating for a sixth year in February.

Veterans Food Bank Collection:

For the last six years we have collected Food Bank Donations for the Veterans Food Bank. The Veterans Food Bank was discontinued in 2018 but the Calgary Legacy Project re-initiated a food bank project for Veterans. This year we again collected several large boxes to help veterans in the City.

The Giving Tree:

Nine boxes of mittens, toques, scarves, socks and blankets were placed on and under our Giving Tree in 2018. The items have been distributed to The Mustard Seed, Brenda Strafford and the Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre. Many of these items are handmade with loving care throughout the year by members of the congregation to support this project. Thank you!

Kiva Microloans:

We loan because... We believe that we are called by Christ to be a light to those in need. Kiva is a non-profit organization with a mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. Leveraging the internet and a worldwide network of microfinance institutions, Kiva lets individuals lend as little as \$25 to help create opportunity around the world. Learn more about how it works. Lutheran Church of Our Saviour has had our own lending team since 2008. We presently have 18 team members that have loaned over \$21,725.00 through 840 loans.

Samaritan Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes:

This year saw the completion of our eighth annual shoe box work bee. Volunteers of all ages came together to pack 326 shoe boxes in one day filled to the brim with school supplies, hygiene items, toys and age appropriate gifts. In addition, a number of other boxes were completed by congregation members

adding several hundred more shoe boxes to the total being completed and delivered to the Samaritan Purse warehouse. A delicious lunch of soup, buns and desserts allowed volunteers fellowship time, an opportunity to celebrate the work of Samaritan's Purse, and time to thank God for allowing us to serve Him as we help needy children in the developing world. Thank you to everyone who helped with supplies, packing, delivery, lunch and so much more.

In addition, forty three extra shoe boxes were completed as a gift to celebrate Pastor Lee's forty three years in ministry at his retirement party.

Sandwich Sunday:

Sandwich Sunday has been part of the Outreach program at LCOS for many years. The second Sunday of each month is designated as "Sandwich Sunday". 23 Loaves of sandwiches are donated by members of our congregation and the sandwiches are then delivered downtown to the Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre, where they are gratefully received. Thank you for your much appreciated contributions, and thanks to Berva Huber and her telephone committee for the monthly reminders.

Stampede Breakfast:

Our 26th Stampede Breakfast hosted by the Church for our community fed over 500 people. New this year was the addition of a portable sound system to allow western music inside and out. The Drop-In Centre happily received the left-over pancakes, sausages and watermelon. Thank you to the over 50 volunteers that helped out to make this event happen.

Acadia Networking and Action Group:

We continue to participate with this local group that includes churches, a police liaison, schools, social workers, health professionals, etc. who are connecting to pool resources together in assisting those in need including low income people, seniors and those who are hurting in our neighbourhoods.

Urgent Care:

The Urgent Care line item is one of great importance to those that are in need of immediate help. This item is used not only for the strangers that come to our door in need of food, diapers and other items but also our congregation members. Our congregation has historically been very generous in offering assistance but there are times when we have more need than funds and we rely on people to earmark some of their offerings for Urgent Care so that we can meet the needs of an ongoing, on growing group of sisters and brothers.

Discipleship:

For many years Pastor Lee ran a two year Discipleship program which typically ends with the youth publicly Affirming their Baptisms. Each year additional youth would join the program already in progress. In 2018 three youth Affirmed their Baptisms in April. Due to Pastor Lee's retirement the remaining youth in the program participated in an intensive summer study and completed the second year as well and two additional youth Affirmed their Baptisms in August. At this time the Discipleship program is on hold with a review to take place for fall 2019.

Dr. Jack Beck:

In January 2018 Dr. Jack Beck presented a one day seminar on “Walking the Land”. This was a follow up to his visit several years ago. We were also blessed to have him deliver the message on the Sunday. Approximately 70 people participated in the seminar. Dr. Beck is presently working on a video series on his work in the Holy Land.

Israel Trip:

In March 2018 Pastor Lee lead his fifth Pastor/Parishioner trip to Israel. This would mark the sixth time members of our congregation and the wider Lutheran community would embark on this two week trip to the Holy Land. Each time Pastor Lee would refer to it as a “once in a life time trip” and each time he returned amazed at what new things he had learned. Historically this trip occurred every two years in the spring.

Pastor Lee’s retirement weekend celebrations:

Though there was a hint of sadness on the last weekend in August as we celebrated forty three years in ministry and fourteen years at our congregation we did send Pastor Lee off in style. There was an amazing core group of volunteers that planned the weekend right down to how many butter patties we needed and then an army of volunteers that turned up to help as the week approached. I would humbly estimate over 100 people participated in making this weekend happen.

The weekend began on Saturday with a wonderful event in the Sanctuary attended by close to three hundred people. There were a great many tears and laughter. We then followed with a sit-down buffet dinner for 260 people. To say our church had never seen anything like it was an understatement. Every inch of the building was used.

The Sunday began with a Service with over three hundred in attendance. Pastor Lee led a service that included gifts of music, and an Adult Baptism and Communion. Many of you may know that baptizing children and adults was one of Pastor Lee’s favorite activities so it was wonderful to share that with us on his last day.

Members of the congregation that have been around a few years would know that Gretch Woolery, was the lead person in organizing regular Pie Social’s and Ice Cream Sundae Sundays. To honor Gretch we did a combination event. We had over thirty feet of table full of pies and another table with Gretch’s favorite ice cream and sundae toppings.

Congregational Wide Study:

In September a congregational wide study was launched based on the book “The Bees of Rainbow Falls” by our former Director of Discipleship Dr. Preston Pouteaux. To launch the study Preston came and lead both Services on September 9th. Most of our small groups including our youth group participated and a dedicated group of approximately 10 people formed a temporary small group to study the book. This also acted as a launch to a loose theme around community and being in the neighbourhood that we embraced through September including focuses on seniors, those with disabilities and a biblical response to Indigenous reconciliation.

Movie Lovers:

Once a month a group of 12 to 20 people gather to watch quality new and older movies. The decaf coffee is always on and the group informally shares snacks. After the movie a brief discuss follows. The group is on a drop-in basis and typically meets on the third Friday of the month. Occasionally we go to new releases in the movie theatre. The movies are typically PG or PG 13, Christian and non-Christian thought provoking movies. Everyone is welcome.

As we move into 2019 I would leave you with an often repeated prayer from someone dear to me:

“Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

– Pastor Lee Woolery

Ministry Reports

The following reports are to give the reader an overview of the various ministries sharing their celebrations of 2017 and their goals for 2018.

Small Groups

Experiencing God

Submitted by: Annabel Glanville

We are a group of women who come together Wednesday morning at 9:30 am over coffee to study God's word. We finished the "Bees of Rainbow Falls", and now are studying "In His Eyes" by Margaret Feinberg. There is always an extra chair.

Games Group

Submitted by : Eleanor Wilson & Ruth Peterson

The games group has enjoyed another positive year with an increase in numbers from both Church and Community. It is a drop-in event where we play bridge, cribbage, Mexican train, and skip-bo. We are open to adding other games if interest is shown. We gather year round in the Fellowship Hall on the first and third Tuesday of each month, play starts at 1:00 pm and runs until approximately 3:15 pm. Average attendance is 23 plus.

We provide a great opportunity to socialize for both Church and Community members. Coffee is provided by the Church, and goodies by those attending. There is always room for more players. As organizers, we feel blessed to be part of this group.

Playtest RPG Group

Submitted by: Darren Tenor

This small group meets and plays roleplaying games (RPGs) where the player are typically the “stars” of the story, and the Game Master controls all the antagonists, supporting characters, weather, animals and other forces of nature. Games can be set in many genres like superheroes, fantasy, science fiction, mysteries, espionage, literary horror, cartoon/slapstick, etc. This group also playtests new games and products being developed for publication (as a reward for play testing, players would be mentioned in the final published product and may be eligible for other awards).

The Playtest Group is composed of eight adults who are congregation members, friends of the congregation, and non-members. This group is currently at maximum size, and we are not looking for new members.

We are willing to support people who want to start a second group and answer questions about the game. In the Spring of 2018, there was a demo of Pathfinder for the youth and family that explored the woods of Thrush Island.

The Ring of Ruin (Pathfinder Playtest):

Starting in January of 2018, a new group was pulled together to play Pathfinder (a popular variant on Dungeons and Dragons). The adventures are set near the town of Mad Rose in the continent of Clymark, which can be found in the world of Razer. Since this campaign is being built as the players play in it, there are many more opportunities to build new content that will be developed as mini-books.

Editor's Note:

Darren has published several gaming books for Fantasy Games Unlimited and is in the process of publishing a variety of other books for additional gaming companies.

Running Group

Submitted by: Leah Thormoset

The running group met every Thursday until October of 2018, running or walking and enjoying time together.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Submitted by: Jens Kaack

During 2017 and until May 2018 we studied a course from A collaborative ministry of the North Carolina Synod called Ever-Reforming: A Reformation 500 Cross-Generational Study. It was very well attended as there were a lot of interest in the subject and we often had full house. Since September we have studied Preston's book “*The bees of rainbow falls*”. The class is on a drop in basis and everyone is welcome.

Today's Pilgrims

Submitted by: Pat Farn

Today's Pilgrims is a group of 10 women who enjoy exploring a variety of study materials. We invite new people to join our group. We meet in the fireplace room at 7:00 PM every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. In 2018 we completed Women of the Bible and are now doing the Bees of Rainbow Falls.

For our wind up in June, we had a very enjoyable pot luck dinner at Lila Keith's home.

Our group always takes a break over Christmas and summertime.

Mission & Social Justice Ministries

One of the six marks of discipleship is "Serving In and Beyond the Congregation." A part of our calling as a missional church (focusing more on sending than seating) is to experience the joy of serving others beyond the walls of our church building. This is not only **thinking** "outside the box", but **doing** "outside the box."

*"And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)*

Acadia Lunch Program

Submitted by: Barb Smith

This group consists of approximately 7 to 9 ladies. We meet on a Wednesday morning to prepare lunch items for three schools. We work along with McDougall United Church; they provide lunches for Monday through Wednesday and we provide lunches for Thursday and Friday. The food we provide, for the most part, is used to supplement what the children bring from home. We are currently providing 110 items which includes sandwiches, fruit and/or veggie cups, cheese and crackers and muffins. A few of us also get together approximately every 4 weeks to bake the muffins that we use for the program. As of this time last year, the need for food has remained the same which is encouraging.

Guiding Mission

Submitted by: Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor & Darren Tenor

"As the sunflower follows the sun, we should follow the Son."

Origin

The Mission Shaped Guiding Team was formed and authorized at the January 2014 Annual General Meeting by the general assembly of The Congregation. This team consisted of four volunteers: Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor, Joe Schulz, Darren Tenor and Richard Williams. In 2014 these volunteers went to three meetings in Red Deer, and these meetings were followed up with two more meetings in Red Deer in 2015.

As we move through this time of transition the Guiding Mission team would like to provide a bit of hope with a very brief summary of some of the listening we did just 2.5 years ago.

A Look Back To Inspire: - 2016 Listening Interviews:

In 2016, The Guiding Mission Team performed 34 listening interviews from all members of the congregation (members and non-members, male and female, and across various ages) and this was followed up by a set of 17 small group interviews that happened in August to September of 2016. When asked to name some life-giving characteristics of LCOS, those interviewed said that the foundation of LCOS is a close knit community of family and friends who cherish and embrace our differences even while we search together for a better understanding of our place in God's divine plan. There is a strong appreciation of Pastor Lee and other leaders who spend long hours trying to direct and focus these endeavours, whether they are part of the ministry, the administrative staff or volunteers.

Lutheran Church of Our Savior is at its best when the people are working together for a common cause that involves reaching out to others. When members are experiencing times of trouble, they can turn to others in the congregation, confident that they will receive love, support and acceptance. God has been most real and alive to those interviewed in a variety of ways through the life of LCOS. Some spoke of times of grief and loss. Others spoke of times of great joy and celebration. When asked about worship experiences that were most significant to them, many mentioned regular Sunday worship with some making specific reference to the music ministry and times of prayer. Others talked about family baptisms and other services marking family life events.

There are many wishes for the future at LCOS. There is a strong desire to continue with outreach (both local and international), with some expressing hope for a focus on opening the doors to others and engaging in more open relationships. Some hoped that there could be some improvements made to the building, while others wanted to see volunteer resources developed and supported. Others hoped for further learning opportunities, whether it happened through guest speakers, special theme talks, Bible studies, small groups or other types of adult education. Many wanted to see LCOS continue to grow and thrive, both in numbers and in depth of relationships.

2018 Programs and Experiments:

Experiments were intended to be small projects that are light on structure and require no great depth of expertise, but some of our projects to date have grown beyond that definition into bold statements about our church. Nevertheless, experiments are intended as a way to create further curiosity as they focus on the local area around us, and are meant to inspire boundary crossing to expand what it means to be a church.

In the year 2018 the Guiding Mission Team supported two programs and one experiment:

Acadia Lunch Program:

This experiment has grown over the years to become a program in its own right. In 2018, Guiding Mission paid for the training required for the food handling permit for the kitchen, start-up equipment, and baking basics for the program. This allowed us to provide food for children who aren't getting enough to eat, and the LCOS kitchen was ensured to be a clean and safe place for food storage and its preparation.

Acadia Portrait Project:

The Guiding Mission team applied for grant money in order to create a mural on the North retaining wall. In late December 2018 we were told that we were granted \$5,000 in funds from the Calgary Foundation to create the mural. These funds will go towards an artist honourarium, the purchase of paint and painting supplies, food and refreshments for the day of the event, and so on. The money attached to this experiment must be used in 2019 or be returned in full to the Calgary Foundation. The mural must be either multi-denominational or non-religious for this funding, but the intention is that it will be a permanent and positive gift to the community that shows the spirit of Acadia. Its location and existence should be a source of pride and joy for the congregation and the artistic community.

The LCOS board has endorsed and is fully aware of the experiment, and LCOS maintenance is fully behind its implementation. The imagery of the mural will be the artist's interpretation of all the feedback that local groups in the area (including but not limited to the congregation of LCOS) have for their community, and will be created in one day by inviting our friends and neighbours to paint the mural that the artist has envisioned.

Future Directions in 2019 for the Guiding Mission Group

Within the 2019 budget is a 33% cut to funding for the Guiding Mission line item (from \$3,000 to \$2,000). Therefore, going into 2019 the group has to decide if we want to try to raise the funds to make up the difference or cut activity. While the group didn't use all of our funds in 2018, the cost of dues for Calgary Alliance for the Common Good (CACG) and the cost for support for the Acadia Lunch program typically exceed \$2,000.

The Acadia Portrait Project has found outside funding that must be used in 2019, and the event must occur at a time when outside painting is practical and enjoyable.

Finally, if you have a passion for the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good work (report to follow), interest in one of our projects or have an idea of your own that might be a fit with our group please contact us. We would love to support and grow with you.

Calgary Alliance for the Common Good (CACG)

Submitted by Darren Tenor & Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor

Formerly known as the Metro Alliance for the Common Good (MACG), the CACG has had a very productive year with its focus on Senior's and Indigenous Issues. The Guiding Mission group pays all of the LCOS monetary fees for its membership within CACG, and the remaining balance is covered by providing office space inside LCOS for CACG's Community Organizer, Pastor Ryan Andersen. In 2018, the Alliance grew to 24 member organizations (including LCOS) that represent about 70,000 people. As members of this organization that provide volunteer time and leadership our congregation has helped CACG accomplish the following in 2018:

Our leaders (including Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor, Pastor Lee Woolery, and Pastor Ryan Andersen) met with the Mayor and City Councillors over multiple meetings in 2018 to build relationships and to ask them to support seniors to stay in their homes and communities. We also worked to gain their support for the creation of an Indigenous Gathering Place.

We held our first Action Assembly. Some 200 people including 16 from our congregation gathered to support seniors and reconciliation in our city. A special thank you to all those who came out to provide power through your presence. Five politicians were also in attendance including four from the City and one from the province. The Mayor could not attend he sent us a video with his remarks. The participants represented a cross section of the 70,000 people CACG represents. We celebrated a win for our Seniors campaign when the City agreed to move forward with a plan to support seniors to stay in their homes and communities. The Research Action Team on Seniors that Pastor Lee and Katharine Co-chair is working closely with the City to ensure all commitments are kept. In addition, continued meetings at the provincial level will be taking place over the coming months to work towards additional funding that can reach an even wider segment of a senior population throughout Calgary. A more detailed summary of the Seniors program can be found below.

Our reconciliation team mourned the loss of Standing Stone (William Bellegarde). We also hosted a blanket exercise, participated in an Elder-led reconciliation process, and continue to support the creation of the Indigenous Gathering Place.

We trained new leaders. Fifty-six leaders participated in our two Foundations for Community Organizing Trainings and Katharine attended a two day (fully funded by CACG) training session in Phoenix. Our leaders participated in a writing campaign asking the provincial government to increase social supports for low-income Albertans. Then in November we heard the good news that these supports will be increased and indexed to inflation.

We trained leaders (including Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor, Darren Tenor, and Pastor Ryan Andersen) in fundraising so that they can strengthen both the Alliance and our member organizations.

CACG's Calgary Seniors Home Supports and Community Connections Program

Summary

There is a critical need in Calgary to connect seniors to the non-medical home support they need to stay in their homes and connect to their communities. This can be addressed by having the City of Calgary lead and fund the development of a program of connected, community-based coordinators. These coordinators would provide seniors with referrals and connection to businesses, organizations and individuals focused on their needs. This assistance would allow them to remain living in their homes by providing yard maintenance, snow removal, minor home repairs, housekeeping and other community programs and services. The cost of such a program would be approximately \$220,000 and would fund five regional coordinators, professional development, and backbone support (including coordination, a shared database, and evaluation).

The key elements of this project:

1. Community based regional home support coordinators.

The central role of these half-time coordinators is to provide seniors with information in the form of referrals for how they can access non-medical home supports as well as information about how to access other services and connect with their communities. These coordinators would be connected to seniors and community centers to develop knowledge of the local context and increase their ability to connect seniors to local services and communities. Each coordinator would be responsible for a specific region of the city, and together they cover the city as a whole. These coordinators would receive training on how to connect seniors to other local services or community groups.

2. The City or an agency would act as a shared backbone support organization.

This backbone would be responsible for coordinating a shared database, professional development of regional coordinators, and training for service providers, advertising, evaluation and support.

3. A shared database of service providers and clients.

This data base would only accessible by the programs staff. This data base would be used to generate referrals and follow up with clients. Clients would be given several referrals (ideally three), which clients can contact and choose between.

4. The creation of a sliding scale for these services.

This sliding scale does not need to be funded by The City, rather it would be created by referring very low-income clients to the City Links program and special needs assistant program funding. Low income clients can be referred to volunteers or lower cost providers. Higher income clients would be referred to full cost providers. Another model would be to hire staff, and then charge clients different fees based on the clients ability to pay.

5. A system that screens home support providers for suitability.

Service providers would be screened based on police information checks for vulnerable persons, references and insurance documents. A model, similar to Edmonton of creating a partnership with the Better Business Bureau could also be explored. This screening is important to create a sense of trust in the services that are provided.

6. Support for the creation of home supports services.

Coordinators would be trained to support individuals and groups to create home support business/projects to provide home support services. For example when a similar model was tried in Edmonton a "Snow Busters" program was created, where community residents could earn extra money (up to \$100/month). A snow shoveling program was developed to help community groups fundraise. "Ma and Pa" operations that could provide below market rates were also identified and developed. Groups that would be willing to provide these services to low income individuals were also contacted. Together these increased the overall supply of providers and create a pool of lower cost providers that can be used to create sliding scale or a means of connecting lower income seniors to services they can afford.

7. Training for service providers.

Training and information will be provided to service providers so that they are better equipped to recognize signs that seniors may need other community connections or supports and to connect seniors with the means of accessing supports.

8. Advertising and Marketing.

Advertising would be used so that seniors know of the program and to recruit both current and potential service providers.

9. Coverage and Scope.

It is important that the program covers the city as a whole since seniors live across the city. A key principle of equal access is that a senior's ability to access this program should not be determined by where they live.

10. Evaluation and Improvement.

This program would be regularly evaluated to ensure it is meeting the needs it is intended for and to improve its effectiveness over time.

Future Directions in 2019 for CACG

Within the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good, we have begun to prepare for our next listening campaign which will take place over the spring. Lutheran Church of Our Saviour members will be invited to participate in this listening campaign. Within the framework of CACG listening campaigns are crucial to set the focus for a year to two years. At CACG's last listening campaign the issue of Seniors and Indigenous issues were selected leading to the success of our Seniors team in helping thousands. Please consider participating.

Lenten bags for Brenda Strafford Centre (domestic violence survivors)

Submitted by: Annabel Glanville

Thank you so much to our congregation! In 2018 we collected 90 pillows and 50 caring bags. Each person that arrives at the centre receives a pillow to keep. In addition, we provide caring bags with a variety of items including toiletries, bus tickets and other small items to help make the women and families arrival a bit more welcoming. These items are so appreciated. Thank you.

Lions Eye bank

Submitted by: Pat Farn

The Lions Eye Bank is the agency to which we give your donated eyeglasses, frames or lenses to be used by people in third world countries. The eyeglass collection box is kept in the donation cupboard in the East entrance. We welcome donations from you, your friends, workplace or other organizations that can add to the number of eyeglasses collected. It is the perfect solution to recycling those old glasses and benefitting others less fortunate than we are.

Mustard Seed Ministry:

No Report Received

Operation Eyesight Universal

Submitted by: Pat Farn

Operation Eyesight Universal is an international organization founded in 1963 by a Calgarian, Art Jenkins, and has its head office in Calgary. Their purpose is to bring reliable eye care and build the necessary infrastructure for clean water supply and hygiene in India and Africa, which will prevent blindness for generations.

The organization publishes a newsletter four times a year and has a website brimming with news, videos and information. This organization works internationally and accomplishes amazing results with our contributions.

Flock Care

Submitted by: Janice Hawkings

Many years ago, maybe 20-or 25, I noticed that we were praying for people I did not know. After inquiries, I learned that they had been active members but now were home bound and or in care facilities. I wondered if they still had connections to our congregation and the answer was, not much. After a while we tend to forget, and the relationship is broken.

In other situations members of our congregation were grieving loss, or facing other difficult life issues. I wondered if they had the supports they needed. Some do, but others seemed to fall through the cracks and supports from their church community were not there.

It was more than 14 years ago that a group of people who shared these thoughts and concerns got together to form this ministry.

The mission statement is “to facilitate, encourage and ensure caring connections within the church family of LCOS and within the wider community as the need arises.”

There are currently 11 members in this ministry, including 6 of the original. During this time some have had their own life challenges and this small group has been a support for each other.

Each member is guided to visit, make phone calls, or meet some other need, as they are able. At any one time this may vary according to their circumstances.

Aside from the physical act of visiting and of connecting with LCOS members we hope to create a culture within the church body as a whole, that will stir each member into noticing, caring and reaching out to others as we go through those difficult life transitions. I believe I see this happening every day.

We also use donations to the urgent care fund to give tangible help when needed to keep food on the table, essential services going and sometimes it has meant being able to keep a family or individual from becoming homeless.

I thank God for all who heed the call to be a part of caring for others and ask further guidance as we grow in that direction.

Worship Ministries

Attendance by Service

Submitted by: Cliff Blumhagen, Financial Secretary

2018	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Total	2017 Total
January	271		469	740	801
February	234		450	684	698
March	277		399	676	865
April	338		775	1,113	1,152
May	154	304	236	694	694
June		586		586	484
July		592	140	732	643
August		915		915	617
September	239	110	393	742	702
October	301		437	738	1,050
November	220		390	610	754
December	292		574	866	695
Total	2,326	2,507	4,263	9,096	9,155
Average Each Sunday				174	176
Christmas Eve Services				463	600

The above numbers are for Sunday services attendance for 2018 by month.

Easter Sunday was in April in 2017 and in March in 2018.

The 2017 monthly total is listed for comparison.

Attendance for Christmas Eve services are shown separately.

This worship attendance data is gathered by the ushers during service times.

Altar Care

Submitted by Karen Smith

This is a special ministry that looks after the chancel area of our sanctuary, which includes the altar. Members of this ministry take care of setting up for Holy Communion Sundays and cleaning up afterward, as well as changing the paraments according to the Church calendar. They make palm crosses for Palm Sunday, Advent corsages for the first Sunday in Advent, as well as purchasing poinsettias for Christmas, and lilies for Easter. Marg Hall and Karen Smith are currently serving as co-chairs.

Choir

Submitted by: Alex Mckay

*Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:
"I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. Exodus 15:1*

As part of the church's music and worship ministry, the choir plays a role by providing leadership in worship through music and song. We continued on a more or less regular basis from January through to May.

This fall, we had a bit of a membership crisis, without enough committed members to cover all the parts on a regular basis. So a call went out asking for people to commit to singing for Advent and Christmas. Fortunately, about 20 people came out, and we were able to sing for Advent IV and Christmas Eve.

I offer a special thankyou to those who came. Our anthems were well-received, and we look forward to trying something similar in the Lenten and Easter season.

Practice dates and times are not yet determined, but will be announced and in the Sunday bulletins. You don't have to have voice training or even be able to read music. All you need is a love of music and a desire to share fellowship and fun (yes, we laugh a lot) with other Christians. Please give your prayerful consideration to this in 2019.

As our church members look for ways of giving gifts of time and talent to the church, this is an effective way to demonstrate commitment to our Lord and His church. See Alex if you have questions alex.mckay.2761@gmail.com.

Handchimes

Submitted by Jennifer Sissons

The LCOS Ringers were excited to start ringing again in October 2018. We were happy to have many ringers return to our group and recruited a few others. Our ringer's team for 2018 consisted of included Valerie Brookes, Beth Eberhardt, Moira Fielden, Reiko Formella, Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor, Karin Kerr, Laura Lodberg, Sheri Pearson, Amy & Lori Todd, and Kerry-Lynn Wersch. A series of five rehearsals began on Sunday, October 21st and finished on Sunday, December 2nd. We rang for the early and late services on Sunday, Dec. 9 and Dec. 16. We were joined by guest flutist, Reiko Formella on Sunday, Dec. 16 when she accompanied us on "We Three Kings".

We are thankful for the musical talent shared by all those involved in the success of the hand chimes this year and we are thankful for the church's financial support of one new hand chime and a song for the next Christmas that we will be playing. The LCOS Ringers would not be possible without the giving hearts and hands of this fantastic group.

Parochial Report

Submitted by Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor

Members received	
By Baptism—child	8
By Baptism—adult	2
By Transfer	<u>0</u>
Total members received during 2017	10
Members removed during 2018	
By Death	3
Transfer Out	<u>0</u>
Total members removed during 2018	3
Funerals conducted	
Members	3
Non-Members	<u>0</u>
Total funerals conducted	3
Weddings conducted	
Members	1
Non-Members	<u>0</u>
Total weddings conducted	1
Baptisms affirmed (Confirmation)	5

9 AM Praise Team

No Report Received

11:00 Praise Team

Submitted by: Terry Lee McKay

We are the lead worshippers for the 11:00 service. We all love to sing and praise God together with our music. Over the past year we have sung at a number of community events including: Twelfth Night, Building Sacred Bridges (Habitat For Humanity) City Hall, Knox United Church, Beth Tzadec, Okotoks Gospel Night, and Pastor Lee's retirement celebration. Our group consists of:

- Doug Drennan - Bass
- Joan Drennan - Alto, Soprano, percussion
- Scott Drennan - Tenor
- Beth Eberhardt - Alto, violin

- Ken Eberhardt - Drums
- Yvonne Eberhardt - Alto, Flute
- Reiko Formella - Soprano, flute
- Lisa Henderson - Alto, flute
- Alex Mckay - Keyboard, Baritone, Flute
- Terrylee Mckay- Soprano, director
- Pat Nickel - Guitar

Thank you to each member of this group. Your time, talent and dedication is so very much appreciated.

But as for me, I shall sing of Your strength; Yes, I shall joyfully sing of Your lovingkindness in the morning, For You have been my stronghold And a refuge in the day of my distress.

O my strength, I will sing praises to You; For God is my stronghold, the God who shows me lovingkindness.

Psalm 59:16-17

Ushers

Submitted by: Ruth Peterson

We have approximately 40 people that cover 52 Sundays a year plus Christmas.

Additional ushers are always welcome. If you would like to try it out, please contact Ruth.

Duties include:

For both Services:

- Please arrive a half hour before the Service.
- Welcome everyone into the Sanctuary and hand out bulletins.
- Collect offering during Service and hand over to counters.
- Count how many people are in attendance.
- On Communion Sunday's provide crowd flow.
- After the Service pick up any papers lying about.

For the 9 AM Service:

- Unlock the doors.
- Turn on the lights.
- Light the candles.

For the 11 am Service:

- After the Service lock the doors.
- Turn off the lights.

Thank you to everyone that helps all year long with this important service to our congregation.

Operations Ministry

The Operations Ministry supports all of the various ministries at Our Saviour. The budgeted amount includes finance, facilities and ministry support including church maintenance, property insurance, mortgage principal and interest, all utilities, janitor remuneration, janitorial supplies, financial secretary and treasurer supplies, kitchen and office supplies, photocopier lease, technology costs, video and music licenses, advertising, ELCIC conferences and Servant Enrichment & Support.

Building & Property Facilities

Purpose of the Ministry: To maintain building assets of LCOS in a clean and safe manner to facilitate the activities and ministries of the church as well as the current pre-school facility.

No Report Submitted

Technology

Submitted by : Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor

The biggest change in technology in 2018 is one in which the congregation will not see until 2019. We have moved from a congregational database and separate giving database to an integrated church management tool. What does this mean? As 2019 develops a variety of tools will be rolled out to the congregation. Some of these tools will include Online Giving, text to giving, viewing your giving statements online and various other financial tools. Please see Cliff Blumhagen's Financial Secretary report for more details on that aspect of the database.

Other tools will include a congregational app and desktop application. Each congregation member will receive an invitation to create their own password for their personal file and download the app. Once you have accessed your file you can choose how much information is available to other members of the congregation (address, phone number, email etc.). In addition, you will be able to upload your own digital photo of your family and individual members as well. The biggest benefit to this is no out dated directories!

For small groups you will have the ability to set up an internal communication system that uses the app or email to quickly and easily connect with your group. For those of you who already use email you might not think it is useful but the simplicity of the system is that once a person updates their phone, email or address in their personal file it will change it everywhere. No more needing to update multiple people at the church.

For volunteering we will be developing an opportunity for you to look at various volunteering opportunities and indicate if you would like to be contacted by the leader of that ministry. Down the road we may even choose to sign-up through the app for volunteer spots.

Event planning can be completed through the program (similar to Eventbrite) that will link to our communication software.

This powerful software will take time to roll-out and it will be done in stages. Please watch for updates in 2019.

Finance

Submitted by: Doug Drennan

Treasurer Commentary:

For the year 2018, LCOS experienced Budgeted giving 6% lower than in the previous year. Included in Budgeted giving were gifts of \$3,300 to acquire an AED (defibrillator), which is now in place. In addition, LCOS received a substantial gift of \$26,400 from a private Foundation bequest. Finally, LCOS received a further \$4,800 in Refugee Mission directed giving. Please see the Notes to the Financial Statements for additional information.

LCOS, as a member of the South West Conference of the Synod of Alberta, joined with other SW congregations in 2016 to sponsor a Syrian refugee family to Canada under the Federal government Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program. This mission has expanded with support being provided to multiple refugee families. LCOS undertook responsibility for the consolidation and management of finances related to this sponsorship. As such, LCOS received substantial directed giving from our members and from the other SW congregations involved. These funds are segregated from LCOS' general funds and held in a separate bank account.

Total expenses for 2018 were over plan, but included a few major projects. These included the extensive refurbishment of our beloved pipe organ, a new stained glass window in the Fellowship Hall, new dishes in the kitchen, the aforementioned defibrillator, and necessary computer technology upgrades. A grant received from the Synod of Alberta in 2017 was refunded, as the intended program did not materialize. Utility costs were lower than budgeted due, in part, to lower natural gas and electricity rates, offset by the provincial carbon tax. Refugee Mission expenditures were paid from the segregated funds accumulated since 2016.

LCOS ended 2018 in a substantial deficit position, with a net loss of \$32,000. This was due in part to reduced giving, as noted earlier, but also included higher than budgeted expenses in many areas. However, the accumulation of designated funds on the Balance Sheet, during prior years of surplus, enabled a partial offset of the deficit by funding over \$22,000 of major expenses. Details are summarized in the Notes to the Financial Statements, Net Capital Expenditures. The Capital fund continues to be in a strong position. Lastly, LCOS continues to be debt free.

The budget for the year 2019 has been approved by the Board. Every effort has been made to bolster the revenue outlook and to trim expenses. In spite of these efforts, the budget is forecasting another deficit year. Significant expenditures in the coming year, on Capital projects and the Refugee Mission, are expected to be funded from the Balance Sheet.

Thank you to all ministry leaders for your continued support and diligence in the management of LCOS's financial resources.

Purpose and Organization:

The purpose of this ministry is to manage the financial affairs of LCOS in compliance with the LCOS constitution and Revenue Canada's Registered Charities Act.

This ministry is served by:

Doug Drennan, Treasurer, who:

- pays invoices, expenses and payroll;
- records deposit summaries;
- maintains the general ledger and other financial records;
- prepares monthly & year-end financial statements;
- prepares the annual budget;
- administers mortgage, bank loan and insurance contracts;
- submits GST refund applications;
- prepares Synod of Alberta, ELCIC, Canada Revenue Agency and Alberta Worker's Compensation forms & reports;
- manages the Financial Review process; and
- provides financial consultation and financial process improvement.

Cliff Blumhagen, Financial Secretary, who:

- manages the financial counter process including assignment of counter rotation;
- confidentially tracks individual giving & other revenue on a weekly basis;
- prepares weekly deposit summaries for the Treasurer;
- administers the annual Stewardship (pledge) & the PAR (payment) processes;
- prepares a quarterly financial newsletter to the congregation;
- generates quarterly statements to givers with assigned offering envelopes;
- generates individual Revenue Canada Charitable Tax Receipts;
- prepares monthly & year-end financial revenue reports; and
- provides financial consultation and financial process improvement.

Financial Giving Counters:

23 people who, on a rotational basis, count, balance, & deposit Sunday morning offerings

Financial Reviewers:

Independent reviewers who, annually, review the year-end Financial Statements, general ledger, bank statements and other financial records of LCOS; this process takes place in mid-January of each year and is required by the LCOS constitution.



Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

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Web Site: www.our-saviourchurch.ca


To the members of Lutheran Church of Our Saviour:

We have conducted the following review procedures on the books and records of Lutheran Church of Our Saviour for the year ended December 31, 2018

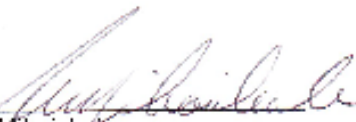
1. Reviewed the year end bank reconciliations;
2. Reviewed the payroll records and approved rates;
3. Reviewed the general ledger and examined supplier invoices on a test basis;
4. Reviewed the cash receipts on a test basis and determined that they:
 - a. reconciled to the bank deposit book;
 - b. were exclusively for board-approved projects and programs;
 - c. were properly used or set aside according to the donor's designations;
 - d. were acknowledged with official receipts where appropriate; and
 - e. were recorded in the appropriate general ledger accounts.

We have not audited or otherwise attempted to verify the accuracy or completeness of such information.

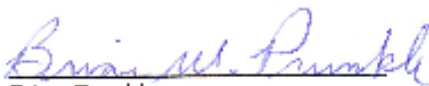
Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes



Bob Keith



Garry Mihaichuk



Brian Prunkle

Calgary, Alberta
January 15, 2019

Our Mission...We are an inviting and growing Christian presence, with a passion for living and sharing Jesus Christ.

LUTHERAN CHURCH of OUR SAVIOUR
Comparative Balance Sheet (Cash basis)
Year End - December 31, 2018

	<u>As at 31/12/2018</u>	<u>As at 31/12/2017</u>
ASSET		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Petty Cash	232.00	300.73
Current Account: RBC	43,887.01	75,311.68
Refugee Mission Account: RBC (Note 1)	6,705.83	9,949.97
Guaranteed Income Certificates (Note 2)	50,766.19	50,061.26
Share Donations (Note 3)	13,150.50	12,611.50
GST Receivable	1,297.82	1,433.60
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>116,039.35</u>	<u>149,668.74</u>
FIXED ASSETS		
Furniture & Equipment	151,900.93	151,900.93
Land & Buildings	873,864.03	873,864.03
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	<u>1,025,764.96</u>	<u>1,025,764.96</u>
TOTAL ASSET	<u>1,141,804.31</u>	<u>1,175,433.70</u>
LIABILITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Kitchen Fund	1,261.00	2,550.00
Technology Fund	1,718.40	4,500.00
Piano Fund	2,713.58	2,713.58
Refugee Mission Fund	19,856.33	23,056.47
Synod Grants	610.00	5,050.00
Urgent Care Ministry	0.00	0.00
Men's Breakfast Fund	1,437.09	1,437.09
Youth Funds	6,088.27	8,388.27
Foundation Funds	0.00	4,058.96
Capital Fund	28,371.73	28,291.73
School Lunch Ministry	447.21	848.46
Memorial Fund	12,368.55	16,255.86
Designated Funds	74,872.16	97,150.42
Vacation Payable	0.00	1,570.53
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>74,872.16</u>	<u>98,720.95</u>
LONG TERM LIABILITIES		
Mortgage Loan	0.00	0.00
TOTAL LONG TERM LIABILITIES	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITY	<u>74,872.16</u>	<u>98,720.95</u>
EQUITY		
MEMBER'S EQUITY		
Opening Balance	1,076,712.75	1,077,148.02
Net Capital Expenditures (Note 9)	22,278.26	-26,122.02
Operating Deficit / Net Loss	-32,058.86	25,886.75
CLOSING BALANCE	<u>1,066,932.15</u>	<u>1,076,712.75</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>1,066,932.15</u>	<u>1,076,712.75</u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>1,141,804.31</u>	<u>1,175,433.70</u>

LUTHERAN CHURCH of OUR SAVIOUR
Comparative Income Statement (Cash basis) : Actual vs Budget
Year End - December 31, 2018

	Actual 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018	Budget 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018	
REVENUE			
RECEIPTS			
Envelopes	340,120.55	350,000.00	
Loose Offerings	6,026.41	6,000.00	
Other Income (Note 4)	12,072.74	10,300.00	
Cost Recovery (Note 5)	3,012.37	0.00	
Investment Income	1,243.93	705.00	
Youth Funds	515.00	1,000.00	
BUDGETED FUNDS	362,991.00	368,005.00	
Canada Lutheran	209.21	0.00	
CLWR	4,545.80	0.00	
Lutheran Campus Min (Drive for 5)	764.00	0.00	
Lutheran Theological Seminary	35.00	0.00	
VeBS User Fees	10.00	1,200.00	
Flower Funds	1,779.00	1,400.00	
Inter-Faith Food Bank	334.20	0.00	
OCC Shoe Boxes	693.25	0.00	
Samaritan's Purse	995.00	0.00	
Other (Note 6)	8,412.74	0.00	
Refugee Mission (Note 7)	4,826.74	0.00	
Urgent Care Ministry	150.00	4,000.00	
Memorial Fund	1,484.35	1,000.00	
Foundation	26,400.00	27,300.00	
Capital Ministry	980.00	240.00	
Youth Funds	625.00	0.00	
DESIGNATED FUNDS	52,244.29	35,140.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	415,235.29	403,145.00	
TOTAL REVENUE	415,235.29	403,145.00	

LUTHERAN CHURCH of OUR SAVIOUR
Comparative Income Statement (Cash basis) : Actual vs Budget
Year End - December 31, 2018

	Actual 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018	Budget 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018	
EXPENSE			
DISBURSEMENTS			
Canada Lutheran	248.43	0.00	
CLWR	4,545.80	0.00	
Lutheran Campus Min (Drive for 5)	764.00	0.00	
Lutheran Theological Seminary	35.00	0.00	
Flower Funds	1,625.98	1,400.00	
Inter-Faith Food Bank	334.20	0.00	
OCC Shoe Boxes	660.22	0.00	
Samaritan's Purse	995.00	0.00	
Other	13,210.26	0.00	
Refugee Mission	8,545.18	0.00	
Urgent Care Ministry	2,032.43	4,000.00	
Memorial Fund	5,371.66	0.00	
Foundation (Note 8)	30,458.96	27,300.00	
Youth Funds	2,925.00	0.00	
DESIGNATED FUNDS	71,752.12	32,700.00	
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY			
Cradle Roll	0.00	500.00	
Young Explorers	1,418.46	1,800.00	
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	1,418.46	2,300.00	
OPERATIONS			
Advertising	194.97	565.00	
Church/Yard Maintenance	12,903.60	12,000.00	
ELCIC & Operations Conferences	310.00	0.00	
Furniture & Fixtures	3,469.72	0.00	
GST Expense	2,396.55	2,000.00	
Insurance - Operations	5,156.09	5,200.00	
Insurance - WCB	623.39	685.00	
Janitor/Maintenance	8,681.06	8,700.00	
Janitorial Supplies	975.13	850.00	
Kitchen Supplies	2,952.42	2,400.00	
Video Licence	355.00	355.00	
Music Licences	237.00	300.00	
Discretionary	750.23	0.00	
Office Supplies	1,799.62	1,700.00	
Financial Secretary Supplies	1,382.94	1,300.00	
Treasurer Supplies	1,990.47	1,600.00	
Stewardship Program	108.75	100.00	
Photocopying	5,705.54	5,000.00	
Technology	7,390.31	4,500.00	
Utilities - Gas	6,783.48	7,900.00	
Utilities - Electricity	6,287.79	7,000.00	
Utilities - Telephone	1,693.81	1,700.00	
Utilities - Water & Sewer	2,097.33	1,700.00	
Utilities - Waste & Recycling	896.35	800.00	
OPERATIONS	75,141.55	66,355.00	

LUTHERAN CHURCH of OUR SAVIOUR
Comparative Income Statement (Cash basis) : Actual vs Budget
Year End - December 31, 2018

	Actual 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018	Budget 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018	
SALARIES & BENEFITS			
Benefits	36,078.23	36,539.00	
Salaries & Housing	214,501.04	219,945.00	
Staff Training & Continuing Education	2,788.17	2,700.00	
Staff Discretionary	255.69	1,400.00	
Staff Travel Expenses	2,029.08	2,000.00	
SALARIES & BENEFITS	255,652.21	262,584.00	
ADULT			
Adult Education Programs	297.86	400.00	
Guest Speakers	1,550.00	900.00	
Library	1,169.49	1,500.00	
Congregational Studies	972.10	400.00	
Devotional Materials	282.90	350.00	
ADULT	4,272.35	3,550.00	
CHURCH FAMILY			
Family Events	5,610.46	2,500.00	
Flock Care	19.94	100.00	
CHURCH FAMILY	5,630.40	2,600.00	
MISSION			
Benevolence	22,000.00	22,000.00	
Mission Ministry	1,983.60	3,000.00	
Stampede Breakfast	1,400.45	1,000.00	
MISSION	25,384.05	26,000.00	
WORSHIP			
9:00 Team - Music	0.00	100.00	
11:00 Team - Music	212.82	100.00	
Choir	261.46	200.00	
Equipment Purchase	199.09	0.00	
Maintenance - Organ & Piano (Notes 8, 9)	0.00	0.00	
Maintenance - Sound & Mikes	1,311.34	500.00	
Worship Supplies	1,871.35	1,500.00	
Guest Speakers (Pastor Relief)	525.00	250.00	
WORSHIP	4,381.06	2,650.00	
YOUTH			
Youth Activities	1,729.82	2,150.00	
Affirmation of Baptism	417.58	100.00	
Discipleship and Education	62.84	500.00	
Youth Outreach	551.71	600.00	
YOUTH	2,761.95	3,350.00	

LUTHERAN CHURCH of OUR SAVIOUR
Comparative Income Statement (Cash basis) : Actual vs Budget
Year End - December 31, 2018

	Actual 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018	Budget 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018
CAPITAL DISBURSEMENTS		
Capital Replacement Items - Women's Washroom	900.00	0.00
CAPITAL DISBURSEMENTS	900.00	0.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	447,294.15	402,089.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	447,294.15	402,089.00
NET INCOME	-32,058.86	1,056.00

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Refugee Mission Account:

Royal Bank of Canada

Segregated funds to support SW Conference Refugee program. Includes post year end fund transfer of \$2,080.74 from Current account to Refugee Mission account for December designated receipts.

2. Guaranteed Income Certificates:

Scotia McLeod

Principal: \$25,766.00 (Bank of Nova Scotia Annual Interest GIC)
 Interest: 2.250%
 Matures: July 24, 2019

Principal: \$25,000.00 (Montreal Trust Company Cashable Annual Int GIC)
 Interest: 1.350%
 Matures: July 24, 2019

3. Share Donations:

Scotia McLeod

Shares: TransCanada Corporation
 Quantity: 200 shares
 Value (at cost): \$12,123.50 (\$60.6175 per share) plus accumulated dividends designated to Refugee Mission.

4. Other Income:

Rent	6,196.00
Celebration of Ministry	2,285.00
Hot Dog Sundays / Easter Breakfast	1,537.70
Jack Beck Presentation	1,184.04
Rosebud Theatre Presentation	695.00
Miscellaneous	175.00
	12,072.74

5. Cost Recovery:

Congregational Studies	980.00
Youth Activities	904.00
Photocopying	465.15
VeBS	230.00
Adult Education	192.00
Young Explorers	84.20
Kitchen Supplies	55.00
Miscellaneous	102.02
	3,012.37

LUTHERAN CHURCH of OUR SAVIOUR
Comparative Income Statement (Cash basis) : Actual vs Budget
Year End - December 31, 2018

	Actual 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018	Budget 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018
6. Other Designated Income:		
Celebration of Ministry	5,759.69	
Coldest Night Walk (Bluesea Philanthropy)	1,803.05	
EI Salvador Appeal (Alberta Synod)	540.00	
Miscellaneous	310.00	
	8,412.74	
7. Refugee Mission Income:		
Lutheran Church of Our Saviour	1,596.00	
All Saints Lutheran Church	1,054.69	
Prince of Faith Lutheran Church	981.05	
Hope Lutheran Church	685.00	
Lutheran Church of The Cross	510.00	
	4,826.74	
8. Foundation Expenditures:		
Continuing Education (Tuition)	11,350.20	
Capital Improvement (Stained Glass Window)	7,816.17	
Worship (Organ Refurbishment)	4,969.74	
Children's Ministry (VeBS)	3,269.06	
Benevolence (Lutheran Hospital Ministry)	2,500.00	
Church Family (Celebration of Ministry)	500.00	
Travel (Hospital Visitation Parking)	53.79	
	30,458.96	
9. Net Capital Expenditures:		
Synod Grants Reduced (Grant Repayment)	4,440.00	
Foundation Fund Reduced (Note 8)	4,058.96	
Memorial Fund Reduced (Organ Refurbishment)	3,887.31	
Refugee Mission Fund Reduced	3,200.14	
Technology Fund Reduced (Equipment Purchases)	2,781.60	
Youth Fund Reduced (DemoCrew Mission)	2,300.00	
Kitchen Fund Reduced (New Dishes)	1,289.00	
School Lunch Ministry Reduced	401.25	
Capital Fund Increased	-	
	22,278.26	

Financial Secretary's Report

Submitted by: Cliff Blumhagen, Financial Secretary

Giving Statistics:

	2018	2017	2016
Number of envelopes issued	185	186	180
Number of envelopes unused	15	14	14
Number of pledges	77	73	78
Number at or over pledge	54	52	47
Number under pledge	23	21	31
Percentage at or over pledge	70%	71%	60%

Giving:

	2018	% Change	2017	2016
Budgeted / General Giving	\$346,146.96	-5.90%	\$367,790.96	\$343,555.20
Designated Giving	\$52,244.29	-34.45%	\$79,707.10	\$70,572.86

General giving for 2018 includes:

AED defibrillator unit (\$3,300.00)

Designated giving for 2018 includes:

- CLWR (\$4,545.80)
- Coldest Night of the Year (\$1,803.05)
- Flower Fund (\$1,779.00)
- Foundation (\$26,400.00)
- Refugee Mission – SWARM (\$1,596.00)
- Memorial Fund (\$1,484.35)

Designated giving for 2017 includes:

- CLWR (\$4,365.00)
- Urgent Care (\$1,920.00)
- Foundation (\$37,300.00)
- Coldest Night of the Year (\$1,300.00)

- Flower Fund (\$1,581.00)
- Synod Grant: Business Fair (\$4,440.00)
- Refugee Mission (\$4,743.05)
- Memorial Fund (\$2,110.00)
- Samaritan's Purse (\$1,950.00)
- VBS Fees & Donations (\$2,822.23)
- Shoe Boxes (\$1,419.97)
- Capital Maintenance (\$1,000.00)

Designated giving listed above are for amounts of \$1000 and higher.

Giving Methods:

The Financial Secretary role includes the receipt and processing of online donations (Interac and PayPal donations), data entry, verification, and balancing of all income received by LCOS, based on Counter's reports, PAR program giving, and online giving. All giving that qualifies for an income tax receipt is recorded and tracked for the giver and identified by the fund (general budgeted giving, CLWR, Urgent Care, Capital Maintenance, etc.). Quarterly giving statements are created for givers who have a set of donation envelopes. Annual income tax receipts are created for all givers whose total annual giving is \$10.00 or more.

PAR Program:

The Pre-Authorized Remittance program (PAR) that was implemented in 2004 continued in 2018. This program gives LCOS givers the option to give monthly directly from their bank or credit union account. Givers can give to General budget, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, and Capital Maintenance (capital expenditures). For 2018, the amount given via the PAR program represented 13.4% of the total general / budget and designated giving. At the end of 2017, there were 19 givers using this program.

The PAR program is provided by and administered by the United Church of Canada. The fee to LCOS for this service is \$0.50 per giver per month. There are no other costs to LCOS for this program. The program is administered at LCOS by the Financial Secretary.

Reporting:

The weekly income and PAR income is reported in summary form and provided to the Treasurer for reconciliation and to the LCOS administration staff for their records.

The monthly and year to date income for the current year with comparison to the previous year is reported in summary form. This is provided to the Treasurer for reconciliation, to LCOS administration staff, to the LCOS board members, and Pastor for their information.

The details of the giving from each person is recorded by the Financial Secretary and stored on a computer system completely separate from the church system. To ensure confidentiality, the Financial Secretary is the only person at LCOS that knows giving details. The Financial Secretary generates reports as listed above and generates summary reports as requested by staff, committees, the LCOS board, and for government reporting. This includes reporting that is included in the annual T3 tax filing, which is completed by the Treasurer.

Stewardship:

The Financial Secretary, Pastor, and church administration (Katharine) share the responsibility of reviewing and setting the direction for the annual Stewardship programming. In 2018, a stewardship program called 'Live Courageously' was followed. Katharine performed the administration work for the program. The program was run for four weeks in November leading up to Stewardship Sunday on November 26. Thanks to Katharine for all the help to make this annual program a success!

Counters:

The Financial Secretary is also responsible for the coordination of all the counters who count the offerings each Sunday, record the income, and make the bank deposits. Thanks to all the counters who continue to make the process work smoothly! The process virtually runs itself.

In order to perform the tasks in this role, I receive a great deal of support from the church administration and ministry staff. Thanks very much for all the assistance you provide to me.

Software:

For the past several years, church administration functions were recorded in a program called Helpmate and recording of donations have been recorded in a program called Donarius. Helpmate resided on the church computer and Donarius resided on the Financial Secretary computer, which is separate from the church computer.

In 2018 the Helpmate and Donarius software programs have been replaced by a program called Realm. Katharine and I developed lists of requirements and reviewed several programs available on the market. All of the programs considered were church-specific programs. After presenting our recommendation to the Church Board, we received approval to implement Realm. It was implemented in late 2018.

Realm incorporates the church administration tasks as well as recording of income and donations. This software is hosted by the vendor in the 'cloud'. This allows access by multiple authorized users from different locations. Security is in place to allow users access to authorized data and functions only.

The data from Helpmate was updated to the new Realm software in late 2018. Required data from Donarius will be updated to the new Realm software in 2019. Donations will also be updated in Realm beginning in 2019.

Upcoming Changes:

With the implementation of the Realm software, giving via credit card will be offered.

As well, the Realm software provides the option for church members to login to the program to manage their own personal information and display their church activity and giving information.

Both of these features will be implemented in 2019. Watch for this, as there will be much communication leading up to the implementation of these features.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, as in past years, I'm very grateful for the many LCOS people who have expressed their thanks to me for doing this work. Thanks!

**Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
2019 Budget**

RECEIPTS

2018 Actual	2019 Budget
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Budgeted

Envelopes
Loose Offerings
Other Income (Rent, Hotdog Sundays, etc)
Youth Funds (Bottles)
Investment Income
Cost Recovery
Total Budgeted Funds

340,121	330,000
6,026	6,000
12,073	11,000
515	500
1,244	917
3,012	
362,991	348,417

Designated Funds

Canada Lutheran (Subscriptions)
Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)
Lutheran Campus Ministries (Drive For 5)
Lutheran Theological Seminary
Flower Funds
Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank
Memorial Fund
Mustard Seed Ministry
Other Designated
Operation Christmas Child (Shoe Boxes)
Samaritan's Purse
Urgent Care Ministry
VeBS
Youth Funds
Foundation
Capital Ministry
Total Designated Funds

209	
4,546	
764	
35	
1,779	1,400
334	
1,484	1,000
8,413	
693	
995	
150	1,000
10	
625	
26,400	26,400
980	1,000
47,418	30,800

RECEIPTS (Before Refugee Mission)

410,409	379,217
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TOTAL RECEIPTS (Including Refugee Mission) (Note 1)

415,235	379,217
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**Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
2019 Budget**

2018 Actual	2019 Budget
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EXPENDITURES

Designated Funds

Canada Lutheran (Subscriptions)	248	
Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)	4,546	
Lutheran Campus Ministries (Drive for 5)	764	
Lutheran Theological Seminary	35	
Flower Funds	1,626	1,400
Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank	334	
Mustard Seed Ministry		
Other Designated	13,210	
Operation Christmas Child (Shoe Boxes)	660	
Samaritan's Purse	995	
Urgent Care Ministry	2,032	3,000
Memorial Fund	5,372	
Foundation (Note 3)	30,459	21,400
Youth Funds	2,925	
Total Designated Funds	63,207	25,800

Children's Ministry

Cradle Roll		
VeBS (Note 3)		
Young Explorers	1,418	1,750
Total Children's Ministry	1,418	1,750

Operations

Advertising	195	565
Church/Yard Maintenance	12,904	12,000
ELCIC & Ops. Conferences	310	3,000
Furniture & Fixtures	3,470	
GST Expense	2,397	2,000
Insurance - WCB	623	750
Insurance - Operations	5,156	5,250
Janitor/Maintenance	8,681	8,700
Janitor Supplies	975	900
Kitchen Supplies	2,952	2,400
Video Licence	355	355
Music Licence	237	300
Discretionary/Contingency	750	
Office Supplies	1,800	1,700
Financial Secretary Supplies	1,383	1,650
Treasurer Supplies	1,990	1,900
Stewardship Program / Consecration Sunday	109	100

**Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
2019 Budget**

	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
Photocopier	5,706	5,000
Technology	7,390	5,000
Utilities - Gas	6,783	7,300
Utilities - Electricity	6,288	6,800
Utilities - Telephone	1,694	1,700
Utilities - Water, Sewer & Sanitation	2,097	2,000
Utilities - Waste & Recycling	896	1,600
Total Operations	75,142	70,970

Capital Projects

Capital Replacement Items (Note 2)

Total Capital Projects

900	-
900	-

Salaries & Benefits Summary

Benefits

Salary & Housing Allowances

Continuing Education

Discretionary

Travel Expense

Total Salaries & Benefits

36,078	45,140
214,501	219,123
2,788	1,200
256	1,300
2,029	1,800
255,652	268,563

Adult Ministries

Adult Education Programs

Congregational Studies

Devotional Materials

Guest Speakers

Library

Total Adult Ministries

298	400
972	400
283	350
1,550	900
1,169	1,200
4,272	3,250

Church Family

Family Cards

Family Events

Flock Care

Total Church Family

	50
5,610	3,000
20	
5,630	3,050

Mission

Benevolence

Hospital Ministries (Note 3)

Mission Ministry

Stampede Breakfast

Total Mission

22,000	22,000
	500
1,984	2,000
1,400	1,200
25,384	25,700

**Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
2019 Budget**

	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
<u>Worship</u>		
9:00 Praise Team - Music		200
11:00 Praise Team - Music	213	150
Choir	261	200
Equipment Purchases	199	
Guest Speakers (Pastor Relief)	525	1,000
Maintenance - Organ & Piano (Note 3)		300
Maintenance - Sound & Mikes	1,311	500
Worship Supplies	1,871	1,600
Total Worship	4,381	3,950
<u>Youth</u>		
Affirmation of Baptism	418	
Discipleship and Education	63	500
Youth Activities	1,730	
Youth Outreach	552	600
Total Youth	2,762	1,100
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	438,749	404,133
RECEIPTS LESS EXPENDITURES	-28,340	-24,916
<u>REFUGEE MISSION (Note 1)</u>		
<u>Receipts</u>		
Refugee Mission - LCOS	1,596	
Refugee Mission - Other SW Conference Churches	3,231	
Total Refugee Mission Receipts	4,827	
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Refugee Mission	8,545	
Refugee Mission Surplus / (Deficit)	-3,718	
CONSOLIDATED BUDGET	-32,059	-24,916

**Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
2019 Budget**

2018 Actual	2019 Budget
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NOTES TO BUDGET

1. Refugee Mission

Refugee Mission receipts and expenditures have been separated out for illustrative purposes. Future expenditures will be paid from the accumulated Refugee Mission Fund of \$19,856, as shown on the Dec. 31, 2018 Balance Sheet. Refugee Mission funds are segregated from LCOS general funds. Refugee Mission funds are administered by the South West Area Refugee Mission (SWARM) committee of the South West Conference of the Synod of Alberta, ELCIC.

2. Capital Expenditures

Capital Expenditures in 2018 were for renovations to the women's washroom. Planned expenditures for 2019 include carpet repairs, additional washroom renovations, exterior painting and additional LED lighting upgrades. All capital expenditures are funded from the Capital Fund of \$28,372, as shown on the Dec. 31, 2018 Balance Sheet.

3. Foundation Expenditures

Tuition
Stained Glass Window
Organ Refurbishment
VeBS
Lutheran Hospital Ministry
Celebration of Ministry
Hospital Visitation Parking
Scholarship
Access Taxi
Camp Kuriakos

2018	2019
11,350	
7,816	
4,970	
3,269	3,400
2,500	
500	
54	500
	5,000
	10,000
	2,500
30,459	21,400

Other Reports

January 2019



Dear Beloved in Christ,

May grace and peace be yours in abundance (1 Peter 1:2a).

I send you greetings in the Name of the One who is the light of the world, Jesus our Lord, as you gather for your Annual General Congregational Meeting.

When you gather together, know that I am filled with gratitude to God for you; that I am thankful for our partnership in the gospel; and, that you continue to be in my prayers as I know I remain in yours.

When you meet together, you will be making decisions about your priorities for ministry. You will be adopting budgets that enable ministry that joins in God's mission of reconciliation in the world. You will be supporting your partners in ministry – the rostered ministers of this Synod, and especially those who serve among you as they, first and foremost, seek to equip you for the work of ministry: the building up of the Body of Christ.

Joining God's mission means that your ministry is among the people with whom you live and move and have your being. Your ministry is done each day in the living out of your baptismal identity as God's beloved children through your service in word and deed.

Ministry continues beyond the neighborhood and congregation through the many faces of the Church and many facets of its ministries: our Synod and its staff, our National Church expression, the Lutheran World Federation, *En Misión con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador*, and our Companion Synod – The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia.

Perhaps at this year's Annual General Meeting you might reflect, name and give thanks for the gifts and mission into which God has invited you and your congregation. Consider taking a few moments in small groups to listen to each other and then share with all gathered reflections on the following:

- 1) Share about a time or situation when you or your congregation experienced God's love.
- 2) What resources do you have within your community? Share three gifts God has given you.

As you meet, I ask you to prayerfully consider forwarding a tithe (1/10th) of your annual income as a congregation as your minimal offering for Benevolence for the ministry of the Synod and through the Synod to the wider Church. Some congregations have exceeded this mark already, but I would encourage all congregations to set this goal.

As you gather be sure to join others across the Synod as you:

- View the 4 Mission Priority videos and use the study guide prepared for our June 2018 Synod Convention, distributed to each congregation, and also available through Synod's website: (<http://albertasynod.ca/convention/synod-convention/2018-mission-priority-video-links-downloads-and-study-guide/>)
- View Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen's 3 Synod Convention Presentations: Faith, Hope, Love (<http://albertasynod.ca/convention/synod-convention/rev-dr-anna-madsens-2018-presentations/>)

- Review the Synod Council Meeting “Talking Points” (<http://albertasynod.ca/people/synod-council/>)
- View the Videos of Faith, Hope and Love prepared at our 2018 Synod Convention for Fall 2018 Area Gatherings (<http://albertasynod.ca/convention/synod-convention/area-gathering-videos/>)
- Subscribe to our Synod’s e-mail newsletter: *Wednesday’s Word*, Subscribing is easy on our Synod’s website.

And remember Paul’s words to the saints in Philippi: *...sisters and brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things (Philippians 4:8).*

My prayer is that your gathering will be a recital of gratitude and praise to God for the signs of the Holy Spirit at work in, through, around, and among you.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).

In Christ Jesus-
Shalom,

+The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Spirit-Led Leadership Hope-Filled Discipleship Innovative Tradition Collaborative Partnerships

With help from the Lutheran Student Movement, Lutheran Campus Ministry provides students at the University of Alberta with the opportunity of true Christian community. Chaplain Advisor Rev. Richard Reimer (pictured) takes in a meal with U of A students.

Photo courtesy of Rev. Richard Reimer.



Left: The Regina Pride Day Parade included local Lutheran clergy members and congregants who walked in conjunction with the Regina Welcoming Faiths Group.

Photo by Anno Bell.



Below: Christ Lutheran, Waterloo, ON., hosted its second annual "Yoga on the Lawn" this past summer. An open invite was extended to neighbours living near the congregation. Participants of all ages, abilities and stages of life enjoyed the outdoor series of events.

Photo by Alicia Becker.



Worship for a Congregational Annual Meeting

OPENING

Acknowledging Lands

Every community is encouraged to acknowledge the treaty and/or Indigenous territory on which the community gathers. If you are not sure of this information, consult the local Indigenous community, library or civic government. The following words may serve as a guide:

We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that we gather on _____
(the territory or Treaty) the traditional territory of the _____ people,
whose ancient relationship to this land continues today.

Read:

1 Timothy 6:11–19

Sing:

Evangelical Lutheran Worship #692
We Are an Offering

Pray:

We are called to practice Courageous Innovation, be innovative, encourage experimentation, acknowledge our anxieties and be flexible in sharing and deploying financial resources as we evaluate our mission priorities and the barriers to innovation.

In Mission for Others, we pray **Come Holy Spirit**.

We are called to the ministry of Reconciling Relationships. We have a vision of an inclusive church, ecumenical and interfaith partnerships, we are challengers of racism and privilege, we work with diverse allies, striving for peace.

In Mission for Others, we pray **Come Holy Spirit**.

We are called to be One Body Working Together. We crave and seek out trust, transparency, a shared vision across the church, partnerships, connectiveness to local ministries, supporting the mission of Canadian Lutheran World Relief.

In Mission for Others, we pray **Come Holy Spirit**.

We are Empowered Disciples. We are faithful gospel witnesses, we remember our baptismal vocation, nurturing leadership development for a changing world, to engage youth and young adults, and seeking worship that nurtures disciples.

In Mission for Others, we pray **Come Holy Spirit**.

We are called to be a church *In Mission for Others*.
Come Holy Spirit. Come.

CLOSING

Sing:

Evangelical Lutheran Worship #641
All Are Welcome

We give you thanks for each one here today; for each voice, each heart, each mind, each disciple.
God of Grace, **we give you thanks!**

We give you thanks for the work of this meeting, for conversation, discernment, decisions that have been made, and for a renewed sense of direction.
God of Grace, **we give you thanks!**

We give you thanks for being called into mission, for good works, generosity, sharing and reconciliation.
God of Grace, **we give you thanks!**

We give you thanks for life that really is life—for diversity, community, relationships, and grace.
God of Grace, **we give you thanks!**

Send us forth to be a blessing to others.

Amen.

