



Live Simply

TAKE HOLD OF THE LIFE THAT REALLY IS LIFE

1 TIMOTHY 6:18-19



ELCIC

*In Mission
for Others*

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Your offering, *In Mission for Others*

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) functions through **three major expressions: NATIONALLY** as the ELCIC, **REGIONALLY** as synods, and **LOCALLY** as congregations. Each expression of the church has unique ministries as well as ministries which are shared with the other expressions. When you give to the ELCIC, you help support **all** the expressions of the church!

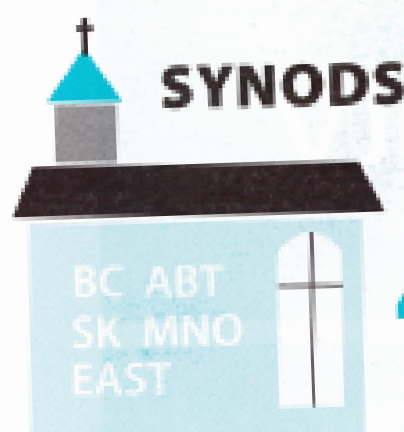
In 2014, ELCIC members gave over **\$63.1 million in regular offerings** to support the call to be *In Mission for Others* through these **three expressions** of the ELCIC:

CONGREGATIONS



94.4%

\$59,597,350 was used by congregations to fund **local ministries**. Your weekly offering supports the work of **your congregation and its ministry**.



SYNODS

4.3%

\$2,703,538 was shared to support the **ministry done through ELCIC synods**. This includes supporting **congregations and leaders** within your synod.

NATIONAL CHURCH



1.3%

\$834,349 was sent through the synods to the **National Church** to support the **wider mission of the ELCIC**.



Annual Report

2016

Table of Contents

Agenda for 2017 Annual General Meeting	3
Minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting	4-8
Church Board Reports	
Chairperson	9-10
Human Resources Report	10-11
Staff Reports	
Senior Pastor's Report	11-13
Director of Children and Youth Ministry	13-15
Ministry Reports	
Small Groups	15-18
Mission	18-27
Guiding Mission (pages 19-21)	
SW Conference Refugee Mission (pages 25-26)	
Worship	27-30
Attendance by Service (pages 27-28)	
Parochial (page 29)	
Operations Ministry	31-48
Nomination Committee (pages 31-32)	
Facilities (page 33)	
Finance (pages 33-35)	
Notice to Reader (page 36)	
Comparative Balance Sheet (page 37)	
Comparative Income Statement (pages 38-41)	
Financial Secretary's Report (pages 42-43)	
Proposed 2017 Budget (pages 45-48)	
Other Reports	
Letter from the Bishop	50-51

Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
2017 Annual General Meeting of the Congregation
January 29, 2017

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 2016 AGM
 - Actions resulting from the 2016 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 2017 Nominating Committee
 - Presentation from the Nominating Committee
 - Nominations from the floor
 - Motion to accept/second/discussion/vote
7. Motions from the Board
 - Review of 2016 Financial Statements
 - 2017 Budget presentation
 - a. Revenues
 - b. Expenditures
 - Motion to accept/second/discussion/vote
8. Other Business
 - Questions from the Floor
9. Motion to Adjourn
 - Motion to accept/second/vote
10. Closing Prayer

Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
2016 Annual General Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2016

Minutes recorded by: Jennifer May

Meeting called to order at 11:45 am by Garry Mihaichuk with 75 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 2016 AGM.
 - b. Pastor Lee – opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. Review and Confirm Agenda
 - a. The agenda was confirmed/amended.
 - b. Motion to accept by Pat Fern/seconded by Ray Wilson/carried.
3. Review and Approve the Minutes from the 2015 AGM
 - a. Actions resulting from the 2015 minutes
 - i. There was an approval from the congregation to initiate a fund raiser for the purpose of paying off the loan for the roof repairs and then additional funds to be designated to a Capital Fund. This has been initiated and as of December 31, 2015 a total of \$7,750 has been raised from the sale of 107 plaques of the total of 216 plaques (109 remain to be purchased). We would like to complete this project by March 31, 2016 so encourage everyone to consider purchasing additional plaques.
 - ii. There was a proposal made from the Mission Shaped Ministries group to initiate 4 experiments in 2015. They were:
 - 1) Experiment A: Help Acadia Elementary School with their ESL program;
 - 2) Experiment B: Set up a Games Night for the people at Luther Place;
 - 3) Experiment C: Place a Little Free Library on LCOS property;
 - 4) Experiment D: Paint a series of murals on the cement wall around the LCOS parking lot. These results are presented in the Annual General report.
 - iii. Other questions or error or omissions from last year's minutes?
 - b. Motion to accept by Joan Drennan/seconded by Gretchen Woolery/carried.

4. Adoption of Reports

- a. The reports have been presented in the materials that were provided for the 2016 AGM. Are there any questions for any of the individuals or groups that have provided information? Yes. Jaqui added Shoebox report. See attachment.
- b. Questions - none
- c. Motion to accept by Doug Drennan/seconded by Joanne Johanson/carried.

5. Election of Board Members

- a. Presentation from Nominating Committee – Deb Montgomery - Additions to the board: Elaine, Phyllis, Doug.
- b. Nominations from the floor - none
- c. Motion to accept by Gretch Woolery/seconded by Alex McKay/carried.

6. Election of the 2016 Nominating Committee

- a. Presentation from the Nominating Committee – Deb Montgomery
- b. Nominations from the floor - none
- c. Motion to accept by Cliff Blumhagen/seconded by Jaqui Anderson/carried.

7. Outreach Survey

- a. The congregation was provided with a survey in January to gauge the interest in our participation in various areas of outreach in the community and the world at large. One specific area of focus was the question of our interest in participating in the worldwide refugee crisis and the desired methodology and extent of this involvement.
- b. Presentation – Garry Mihaichuk
The survey results are published in your Annual report on pages 22-26. This survey was aimed at getting the congregation's feedback on three main items:
 - i. The first main question was whether the level of participation in the three areas of existing missions (International, Local and Benevolence) was support to maintain, increase or decrease. In all three areas the indication was to maintain with a desire to increase in International and Local. Since both of these are completed through designated offerings this can be accomplished through an individual family unit's designated offering. We have had requests from the Alberta Synod and the National ELCIC to consider increasing LCOS's Benevolence offering. The survey results indicated that there was a strong sentiment to maintain with some leaning to decrease and less to increase. From this we have left the Benevolence at last year's level.

ii. The second main question was the congregation's support for the ELCIC Reformation Challenge to provide: 1) 500 Scholarships to Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Jordan and the Holy Land; 2) \$500,000 to Lutheran World Federation Endowment Fund; 3) Plant 500,000 trees; and 4) Sponsor 500 Refugees to Canada.

I. 500 Scholarships – Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

The survey indicated that 75% of the respondents were neutral to positive to this initiative. Further evidenced by the level of financial support, which was in the range of \$1,150-\$2,300 for the year. This would all be collected through designated funds so that only those who were in support would be asked to provide funds.

II. \$500,000 to Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Endowment Fund.

The survey indicated that 88% of the respondents were neutral to positive to this initiative. Further evidenced by the level of financial support, which was in the range of \$1,900-\$3,800 for the year. This would also be collected through designated funds so that only those who were in support would be asked to provide funds.

III. Plant 500,000 Trees.

The survey on planting trees was divided into funding and physically planting. The survey on the financing indicated that 75% of the respondents were neutral to positive of this initiative. Further evidenced by the level of financial support, which was in the range of \$1,600-\$3,200 for the year. This would also be collected through designated funds so that only those who were in support would be asked to provide funds. On the question of physically planting trees the response of 72% of respondents was that they were neutral to positive. This activity could be part of our community outreach project to plant trees in storm damaged areas of Calgary.

IV. Sponsor 500 Refugees to Canada.

The last area of the survey was the sponsoring of refugees. There is an estimate of over 20 million refugees in war torn parts of the world that are looking for safety. This includes a variety of countries including: Syria; Sudan; Eritrea; Burma; Somalia; Colombia; Iraq and Iran. It has become highly publicized with the Canadian government wanting to support refugee settlement to the extent that they will provide 50%-100% of the funding. Organizations that want to participate on the "blended" program where 50% of the funding is provided by the Canadian government are able to get a fast track approval with a security checked list which could get a family into Calgary in 4-8 weeks. This is considerably faster than a stand-alone sponsorship which can come from any part of the world but which could take 18-36 months and would have not security clearances.

The results of the survey indicated that 93% of the respondents were neutral to very positive of this initiative. Further evidenced by the level of financial support, which was in the range of \$6,300-\$10,300 for the year. Since the cost of a 4 person family on a blended program is estimated to be \$13,500 it indicates the financial support for a family. We further questioned whether this should be funded through General or Designated offerings and there was a definite priority given to funding this through designated offerings in partnership with other SW Conference Lutheran Churches.

iii. The Third main question was raised through the SW Conference Convention of October 2015, and has established a deadline of March 1, 2016 to discern the level of participation the churches of the Southwest Conference will have for this sponsoring 5 families w/an av-

erage of 4 people/family, and will then offer a recommendation to SW Conference Council on how to proceed. This support can be accomplished by: 1) financial; 2) in-kind; 3) housing; and 4) personal teaching and support. In this regard, there was strong support for financial (\$6,300-\$10,300); strong support for in-kind items; no support for congregational members providing housing and some support for providing personal time toward settlement and education.

iv. Issues and Concerns are summarized in the report but indicate that the congregation was supportive of the effort with some cautions on security, and selection process.

vi. Questions and Discussion:

- Christian family would be preferable because we could add to our church family. Things like housing and clothing would be easy. The hard part would be teaching Haloween and other once in a while thing that could easily be forgotten about by sponsors.
- Christians in countries where refugees are from are killed for their faith.
- Restrictions on refugees based on religion causes more division in the world.
- There was a discussion on what to put on the envelopes to distinguish between designed and general funds to be used for refugees.
- There was a question about the ranges in the survey results. Garry explained that he used the average times number of respondents.
- There was a question about what the board's recommendation was. Garry said that he part iii above was the motion that the board would recommend.

vi. Motion to accept below motion by Jaqui Anderson/seconded by Grant Gilchrist.

At this time, I would like to seek a motion that LCOS in conjunction with the SW Conference Congregations have an indication of financial support in the range of \$6,300 - \$10,300 through designated offerings to fund the aspiration of the SW Conference to support 5 families of refugees. There is also interest in providing in-kind support and some personal training and educational support but no interest in providing housing in congregational housing.

Discussion following the motion:

It was suggested that we should use a specific amount vs using a range. An amendment proposed to change the amount to \$8000. Jaqui and Grant both agreed to the amendment. Another person commented on whether we should sponsor 1 family or help with sponsoring 5 families with a larger group. There was a question about what happens if we donor raise the \$8000. Garry responded that we need to have the money before we can fill out the application fill. Another member suggested that the target should be \$6300 since many families are hurting due to the economy. There are people in the church who have been laid off. One member asked about other organizations that could use our support, such as the Mustard Seed, the Drop In Centre, etc. Another member asked what would happen if the other churches in the SW conference group don't contribute as much or if their churches don't want to contribute. Garry responded by saying that we are just looking for an amount to back tithe group with and based on the estimates from all churches in the group a deduction can be made on how many refugees we can help. A member commented on great it was to hear everyone's concerns and warnings. They will help us to do a better job.

Vote results: 50 for/14 against/carried

8. Motions from the Board

- a. Review of 2015 Financial Statements – Doug Drennan
- b. 2016 Budget presentation – Doug Drennan
 - i. Revenues
 - ii. Expenditures
- c. Thanks to Doug and Cliff for their dedicated work on the financials.
- d. Motion to accept by Alex McKay/seconded by Bob Montgomery.

Discussion.

- How is the memorial fund to be used?
Doug said it is carried over to the budget for the board to discuss.
- Do we still have a contingency fund and how much is it?
We budget for capital project spending. We will need to budget for upcoming maintenance, such as, broiler, roof repairs/replacement, etc. Garry would like debt reduction designated funds to go to capital projects.
- Joan Drennan asked whether an office assistant will be hired and whether that is in the budget.
We have temporary help in the office and there is room in the budget for the hiring of an office assistant.
- Alex requested an amendment to the budget for an organ maintenance line with \$2000.
Doug says that will reduce the surplus from \$3600 to \$1600. Motion made by Alex, seconded by Bob Montgomery, carried.

Motion to accept the budget with the above amendment by Doug Drennan, seconded by Richard Williams, carried.

9. Other Business

Questions from the Floor/Comments

- Cliff Blumhagen – Please hold off making donation for refugees until a board decision is made in order to avoid CRA legalities.
- Jens Kaack – Garry has done an excellent job as board chair.

10. Motion to Adjourn – at 01:08 pm

Motion to accept by Doug Drennan, seconded by Johanne Johanson, carried

11. Closing Prayer led by Pastor Lee

Chairperson's Report

Submitted by: Garry Mihaichuk

First of all, an apology for not being able to attend the AGM this year. We will be leaving town for a few weeks and therefore are not able to attend. I am asking the Vice Chair of the Board, Bob Montgomery, to handle the chair responsibilities in my absence and I know he is more than capable of handling these.

The year got rolling with our AGM on January 31, 2016. There were a number of important items that were discussed as far as the ELCIC Challenge to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. We surveyed the congregation and found that most people supported the initiatives and were willing to put their money where their votes were, the ELCIC Reformation Challenge was: 1) provide 500 scholarships for schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (LCOS would provide \$1,725); 2) give \$500,000 to the Lutheran World Federation Endowment Fund (LCOS would provide \$2,850); 3) Help to plant 500,000 trees (LCOS would provide \$2,400) and 4) sponsor 500 refugees to Canada (LCOS would provide \$8,000). These challenges will go on for 2016 and 2017. How have we made out? The challenge that has received the most attention from LCOS in 2016 was to sponsor a family or two which raised \$9,981.52! The other areas of challenge have not been addressed during 2016.

The ELCIC in 2016 has accomplished the following results on the Reformation Challenge: 1) 72 scholarships out of the goal of 500 have been made; 2) \$135,160 out of the goal of \$500,000 have been raised for the LWFEF; 3) 51,572 trees out of goal of 500,000 have been planted; and 4) 530 refugees out of the goal of 500 have been sponsored.

On March 6th we celebrated the final payment of the LCOS mortgage by burning it in the church fellowship hall. This signified our ability to put those funds into areas of outreach and support. In March, we also finished the Ark Project Fundraiser which provided funds for the roof repair with the excess required to pay off the roof loan going into a Capital Fund, excess equaled \$10,200, for building maintenance and repairs.

There was truly a God sighting on August 6th as we celebrated the arrival of Jesse Ramson as the Director of Children and Youth Ministry. He is an exceptional individual with God given talents that has energized our children and youth and captivated the congregation with his inspirational sermons. The children's Christmas pageant was a true example of his talent as he brought out the best in all of the participants.



On September 8, 2016 after months of planning, phone calls and meetings the first Syrian family (Zuheir, Maram, Mohammad (3) and Hamza (1) Aldakkak) that the SW Conference Refugee Sponsorship Group (LCOS and 4 other Calgary Lutheran churches) supported arrived in Calgary. LCOS has taken a lead role in the sponsorship and was the signing church on behalf of the SW Conference. It has been an exciting time as the family has settled into their new accommodations near LCOS, have started learning english and have had a chance to visit and thank the congregations that have supported them. Special thanks to the all LCOS individuals that have supported the family including: Jaqui and Brent Anderson, Nick Perchthaler, Dorothea Schaab, Rachelle Ellis and Leah Thormoset. Your efforts are appreciated by the family and by the board and the congregation.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your ongoing participation in our Ministry. In particular, I would like to thank Pastor Lee, Jesse, Katharine and Shauna for their amazing efforts in bringing us and our children the Word and blessings of Jesus each week. Also to Doug and Cliff for their tireless and dedicated work on our financials. Lutheran Church of Our Saviour is an exciting and vibrant community of believers willing to support, encourage and challenge one another with our shared future.

It has been a blessing in my life to serve on the Board with so many other dedicated members, which I would also like to thank for their dedicated service. Thank you for this honour.

I encourage you all to contemplate your role in God's life and your ways and means of sharing the gifts of Jesus with others. Many have provided their time and talents in the congregational life and activities and also in a diverse set of outreaches into the community and the world. Again, I thank each of you for sharing your God given talents in such a visible way.

Our challenge is to continue to grow and be in mission to others. May LCOS's ministry be a blessing to our community!

God bless you.

Human Resources Ministry

Submitted by: Walter Hall

The Human Resources Ministry serves to oversee church staffing relations, to help facilitate staff initiatives, and to encourage the continued growth of our strong team spirit. It also tends to all of the business aspects of budgeting for payroll accounts and to the co-ordinating of year end staff reviews. Our committee includes Walter Hall and church board person Jennifer May.

We serve in close communication with Pastor Lee and Board Chairperson Garry Mihaichuk. We strive to nurture a productive staff team that pull together on our wide range of ministry and social programs. As we finish up 2016 there is a widely expressed opinion that our team rapport has never been better, with each person excelling in their area of responsibility.

There were a few staffing changes in 2016:

- Quinn Friesen's left his Family Ministry position as his full time schedule ended in late May.
- Mariette Jessup's part time Young Explorers position was discontinued at the end of the Sunday School year at the end of May.

We resolved that these responsibilities might best be restructured by recruiting one strong, experienced ministry person to plan programming for a position combining the Youth and Children's Ministries to direct our fall season.

- We recruited Jesse Ramsom as Director of Children's and Youth Ministry, starting in August. Jesse came to us with a wealth of Youth Ministry experience and made an immediate impact with well thought out programs, an engaging presence, and strong communications skills. He has impressed both our younger church community and their parents. Jesse is completing his Bachelor of Arts in Religion in the spring of 2017 and plans on starting a Masters in Ministry program this summer.

- Shauna Gross joined our team as an office assistant to Katharine Heimbigner Tenor in a part-time support position. Shauna's primary interest is her separate unique preschool program, "The Painted Wombat Fine Arts Preschool", that operates weekdays at Our Saviour.

We also want to recognize the importance in "personal growth" as our team constantly seeks to add to their ministry experience.

- Pastor Lee led a group to a Bible Lands tour of Israel in the spring. He notes that with each visit to the Holy Lands he gains added insight to biblical messages.
- Katharine has enrolled in two long distance classes through the Lutheran Seminary in Saskatoon. These classes add to her already strong Christian service skill set, a definite plus for our congregation.

Program planning fills up the church calendar, with a heavy daily schedule of ministry and social group events. In addition our staff are involved with "larger community" outreach. For example Pastor Lee and Katharine are co-chairing a MACG (Metro Alliance for Common Good) initiative considering support for seniors in the Calgary community. Real time demands for all staff positions are considerable, resulting in challenges for each staff person to critically prioritize their time demands. Please consider the caring ministry you see daily from Pastor Lee and his staff, and take every opportunity possible to recognize their good work and say thanks for their fine Christian ministry.

Staff Reports

These people are paid servants at Our Saviour

Senior Pastor Report

Submitted by: Pastor Lee Woolery

"Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son and give Him the glory, great things He hath done." (Chorus from the 19th century hymn, "To God Be the Glory")

In January we began with a proposal that each day that month we would look in the mirror and say: **I am a child of God, deserving love and respect, and God will use me to make a difference.** The hope was that we would give thanks to God for the precious gift each one of us was created to be. And then, through the year, together, we could experience any challenges, changes and celebrations along the way with confidence and grace. This entire annual report gives us all an opportunity to reflect on the multiple directions God calls us in ministry; places where God calls us to join him in mission. In concert with these reports, I'd like to comment on a few events of 2016:

- **CNOY (Coldest Night of the Year):** For the third year in a row, we assembled a team of walkers and route volunteers to participate in the Coldest Night of the Year on February 20th. This year our CHILL (Christians Helping Individuals Lift Lives) team of 18 raised over \$2,600 in support of Feed the Hungry, Acadia Place and the Mustard Seed.

- **Doug Rawling Concert:** In March, Doug, along with Andrew and Dieta Carlson, gave a concert in support of the outdoor camping ministry of Wilderness Ranch. Doug is the director of this unique camp in our Synod.
- **Mortgage Burning:** In a brief time of celebration between the two worship services on March 6th, we thanked God for the blessing our mortgage coming to an end. Although struggling a bit to get it lit, the smoke in the Fellowship Hall was finally a good sign.
- **Israel Study Tour:** For the fifth time, our congregation worked with Jerusalem University College in participating in a study tour of Israel, the Land Between; this time from April 3 to 17. Our group of 19 included members of our congregation, some Calgary, Cochrane, Bragg Creek, Edmonton and Medicine Hat. Another study tour is being planned for March 12-25, 2018.
- **Congregational Life Event:** On April 23 at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Red Deer an event on mental health was put together by the Leadership Development and CARE ministries of our Synod. The keynote speaker was Dr. Sharon Smith, co-founder of Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries in Vancouver.
- **Discipleship:** On May 22nd, we rejoiced with Owen Ellis, Lauren Sissons, David Starratt and Liam Todd as they publicly proclaimed the affirmation of their Baptisms, following a two year involvement in a Discipleship program called "Re:Form."
- **Fireside Group:** Gretch and I continue to have the great joy of being involved with this small group that has met twice monthly over the years. This Christ-centred Bible study, friendship and fellowship small group is a real blessing and encouragement.
- **Acadia Area Day Camp:** During the week of August 8-12, a day camp for ages 6-12 was held at McDougall United Church. Our congregation along with McDougall, Acadia Community Garden and Art Society and the Strong Neighbourhoods Initiative organized and helped lead the kids in stories, crafts, games, music and field trips. The Camp was called "Peace Out!"
- **Get-Togethers:** Through the year, there were a number of opportunities to socialize and build relationships with events like Pie Socials, Potlucks, and Ice Cream Sundae Sundays. Food, fellowship and fun are a wonderful combination!
- **Veterans Food Bank:** From November 6th to 13th, we collected 4 large boxes of close to 500 lbs of food and other items to support our veterans in need.
- **Christian Book Sale:** We hosted a Christian Book Sale twice, once in February and then in November. Used Book Treasures and Better Books and Bibles (only in February) provided used and new Christian and family friendly children, teen and adult books.
- **Welcome to the Church Family:** On October 23rd, we rejoiced with Alfred Forbrich, Nathan and Leah Thormoset, Kelly Sissons, Rob, Leah, Claire and Abby Storrow and Laura Lodberg as they were welcomed into the LCOS family.
- **The Giving Tree:** Again this year, we overwhelmed the Christmas tree in the foyer with scarves, mitts and toques for area charities. We collected 7 large bags which were distributed to the Mustard Seed, Calgary Pregnancy Centre and Ronald McDonald House.

- **Acadia Networking and Action Group:** We are participating with this local group that includes churches, a police liaison, schools, social workers, health professionals, etc. who are connecting to provide resources together for low income people, seniors and those who are hurting in our neighbourhoods.
- **Urgent Care:** Is more than just a line item on our budget. It's a much needed resource to care for those who need immediate help. However, there has been more need than funds and we rely on people to earmark some of their offering for Urgent Care so that we can meet the needs of an ongoing, on growing group of sisters and brothers.

I am blessed by and grateful for the opportunity to share in team ministry with Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor, Jesse Ramson and Shauna Gross. There is a wonderful team Spirit in our midst!

This is just a glimpse of the activities which our community of faith engaged in, a part of our in reach and outreach. As you read further, you will discover that our ministry and mission continue to reach further into our neighborhood, community and the world. Our hope and prayer is that we will be diligent in seeking greater areas of seeing and serving Christ in our neighbor.

Again this year may our ongoing prayer be:

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.

Director of Children and Youth Ministry Report

Submitted by: Jesse Ramson

The Experiment Student Ministries

When I was first contacted about this position, the emphasis was heavily placed on the youth ministries. From my understanding, the program was in a little bit of a lull, and a rebuilding effort would have to be made. I think it is fair to say that we are finished with that rebuilding effort, and have started to move forward at a strong rate.

The aim was to reignite the passion and excitement from the youth and their families in regards to the work that the church was doing to minister to that age range. My emphasis has been on fun, creative, competitive events as well as Biblical teaching that specifically focus on that passion. We've already had some great events since September, including a Baker's Challenge, a Photo Scavenger Hunt, a Christmas Café for the church, and much more. Looking ahead to the rest of the programming year, we have some awesome opportunities like the Hunger Mission, the Amazing Race, and much more.

Our teaching has been focused on First John, and a study by Andy Stanley called Christian. Specifically, we've been looking at what a relationship with Jesus looks like, and how it pans out in our day to day lives. My emphasis has really been on discipleship, or starting a mentorship process with youth that goes beyond Sunday morning or Friday night events. I hope to continue with these efforts for the rest of the year, and expand to a church-wide concept. My focus continues to be to help the youth grow stronger together, stronger with the Lord, and stronger within the church. I hope to add to my goals in the coming months to starting looking at how we can bring the youth of the community within our doors as well.

Young Explorers Children Ministries

When I first arrived in August, there were a few initial impressions that I made regarding the Young Explorers Sunday morning 10am classes for ages 3-Grade 6. First, I knew right away that the tools were there to make this an extremely strong program. The children that I first met in VBS seemed excited to learn more about God, and to be actively involved in having fun while focusing on who God is to them. The support team was also an amazing surprise. Jennifer Sissons had already mapped out the entire year, with a group of dedicated, fabulous volunteers. To have that kind of backing provided an easy start, and is truly a continuing blessing. Without our team of Young Explorers volunteer teachers, the children of the church would be missing out on such an amazing opportunity to learn and have fun in a unique style.

Another thing that was brought to my attention was the need to provide some more structure and organization to the program. An important thing with change is to figure out how to keep some consistency from before, and then slowly integrate small adjustments before launching any full scale changes. I developed a system using the pre-chosen curriculum where teachers would receive a package two weeks in advance containing each activity, a loose schedule with estimated time frames, and detailed descriptions on how to complete each activity. Each Sunday morning, teachers arrive to their classroom already set up, with all the materials and equipment that they need in a bag in the room. Not only does this create a structured system, it also makes it easier on the volunteer teachers.

Looking ahead to the future, the primary goal with Young Explorers is to find a new curriculum that is more updated, fits with this church's learning style, and also connects deeply with the mission that we have for children's ministry. This will be a rather extensive process, as we are doing our best to look at all the different options, but ultimately it will reap amazing benefits for the children of this church. Already our numbers in classes have nearly doubled since the start of the year, and there seems to be a renewed excitement from the children. Now the goal is to continue that process, make classes even more exciting and fun, and to further develop each child's understanding of key Biblical concepts, and most importantly, how they can find a personal relationship with God.

Tween Experiences

This was another area when I arrived in August that I knew I had to focus on. I was informed of how in the past this had been a great program, catering to the Grade 4-6s, preparing them for life in the youth group. In the past it seemed like this was a vibrant ministry, connecting with lots of tweens. However, it seemed like the program had fell off the radar in the past year.

Immediately, I re-installed the program, aiming for one night a month. So far, it seems like this has been a huge hit, with the nights being interesting, yet easy to set up events. All activities are hosted here at the church, so there is no need for travel. On top of all the fun challenges and games, each event dedicates about a half hour of study time, specifically looking at the person of Christ, and what makes Him so special.

For the end of this programming year, the goal is to keep things close to how they are right now, as it seems to be very successful. Hopefully this will continue to catch on and more and more tweens will come out, especially tweens inviting their friends to come check it out. For the long-term future, I really see this as a great opportunity for graduating youth to stay connecting with the church, and to help out the church by volunteering as leaders. This will also help develop young leaders within our congregation.

College and Careers

The worldwide church is facing a critical issue these days, the issue of connecting with young adults, specifically between the ages of 18 to 29. Recently studies have revealed some staggering realizations. First youth are some of the most religiously active people in the world, while young adults are by far the least religiously active (that's a huge gap in such a short transition period). The Barna Group recently released findings that 59% of young people with a Christian background claim to have completely dropped out of church, with 57% saying they are less active in the church compared to when they were 15. The struggle to connect with these young adults is deepening, and a priority has to be placed on facing this problem.

Our small group titled College and Careers looks to start finding a solution in multiple ways. It's a place to reconnect with other young adults and with the church in general. It's a place to face doubts and challenges regarding our faith together. It's a place where we can start turning around those troubling stats here in our community. When I first arrived here in August, this was one of the areas that I marked as needing a lot of work. So far, we've set out the vision for the group, and started to piece together what initially the group will look like. As with any new project, things have been slow to take off, but the potential is there for this to be an amazing ministry opportunity, not only for the current young adults of our congregation, but also for the graduating youth for next year.

Ministry Reports—Small Groups

The following reports are to give the reader an overview of the various ministries sharing their celebrations of 2016 and their goals for 2017.

Divine Drama

Submitted by: Jens Kaack

Crossways "Our Narrative" is the second half of the Divine Drama program. It will be finished in the first week in March. There is currently 11 people enrolled.

Experiencing God

Submitted by: Annabel Glanville

We are a group of 6 women that meets every Wednesday morning at 9:30 am in the Fireside room. We experience and share God's word over coffee. In December we finished "Living the Proverbs" by Charles Swindal, it was so interesting. Starting in January we are studying Hebrews. There is always an extra chair and would love to have you join us.

Games Group

Submitted by co-hosts and organizers: Ruth Petersen & Eleanor Wilson

Our Games Group has had 4.5 years of enjoying fellowship and games together. We have met regularly at 1:00 pm until about 3:30 pm on the first and third Tuesday in each month. Our average attendance is 20 plus with attendees enjoying bridge, skip-bo, Mexican train and cribbage. We have lost a few regulars due to deteriorating health but without exception those that do attend enjoy their time here. We always have an ample variety of goodies, donated by those attending, to go with our coffee, which is provided by the Church.

Our thanks to Jesse Ramson and Margaret Lamont for entertaining us at our Christmas Pot-luck lunch. We offer a big “thank-you” to the folks involved in setting up and putting away tables and chairs.

We are so blessed to have such a wonderful group of people and hope many more will come out and join us in 2017.

Morning Glories

Submitted by: Margaret Heimbigner

Morning Glories is a group of senior women who study God’s Word, pray and share our daily challenges with each other. We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 10:00 am. Contact Margaret Heimbigner at 403-252-2712 for additional information.

Movie Lovers

Submitted by: Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor

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. The movies are typically PG or PG 13. Everyone is welcome.

Playtest RPG Group

Submitted by: Darren Tenor

The Playtest Group was promoted in October, and began in November. We currently have six players – five adults and a teen. We meet at LCOS once or twice a month on Saturdays. We are play testing a recently published book of Villains and Vigilantes (V&V) adventures (Homefront) in order to help the team to gel as a group and get some experience with the playing V&V. The Game Master/Organizer is Darren Tenor and the current characters (players) are: Bolt Storm (Will), Chimera (Katharine), Cobalt Blue (Belinda), Paladin (Max), and two other players (Chris and Graham) who are still working on their code names.

This 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 can also playtest 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).

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.

Revelation Study Group

Submitted by: Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor

This small group started in November 2016 and is lead by David Yates. The group is working through the book of Revelation and asking the question: “Why is this one of the most misunderstood books in the Bible?” If you would like to join the group please contact David or the office.

Running Group

Submitted by: Leah Thormoset

The LCOS running group has enjoyed several fun evenings together this Fall/Winter. Despite some colder and darker evenings, we continue to encourage each other toward fitness and fun, and good conversation happens along the way! More are always welcome - all levels of runners belong here .

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Submitted by: Jens Kaack

Sunday morning adult bible study is between the services from 10:00 am to 10:50 am. Everyone is welcome. No experience necessary. We are currently studying Galatians. We have study books available come and join in the discussion .

Today's Pilgrims

Submitted by: Pat Farn

Today's Pilgrims is a group of about 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 2016 we completed the book “Love to Pray” by Alvin Vandergriend a devotional for deepening your prayer life. For our wind up in June, we had a very enjoyable pot luck dinner at Pat Farn's home. Our group always takes a break over Christmas and summertime.

Women, Equality & Scripture Study Group

Submitted by: Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor

This small group met in the fall of 2016 and was lead by David Yates. David has spent the last 5 years studying the status and treatment of women in preparation for writing a book. The book originally was to be focused on women in the ancient world but David soon realized that there was very little written about women at that time due to their very low status. This lead David on a journey to discover how things have changed from ancient to modern times and how scripture has influenced these developments.

Mission 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: Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor

The Acadia Lunch program began in the fall of 2015 with the goal of providing healthy lunches on Thursdays to children at Acadia School, David Thompson and Lord Beaverbrook High School . The program runs in partnership with McDougall United Church.

Each week 700 children need an entire lunch or a supplement because they are coming to school hungry. A child may need help once or multiple times each week.

A core group of volunteers has formed with Barb Smith stepping forward to be the main coordinator as they prepare food on Wednesdays at the Church and deliver to the schools on Thursday morning.

If you would like to assist through donations of healthy cookies, supplies, food purchases or helping in the kitchen please contact Barb.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief We Care Kits

Submitted by: Jaqui Anderson

At our first Work Bee this year we focused on Living and Learning Kits which help children stay healthy and attend school. One hundred and thirty four kits were made. In addition, we assembled 42 sewing kits. These kits provide an opportunity to learn a trade for young girls. Janice Hawkings organized a team of sewers, recycling old t-shirts to make cloth diapers for 24 Baby Bundle Kits.

Gretch Woolery, Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor, Arianna Tenor and Margaret Heimbigner had a second work bee at the end of August. The kits included sewing, learning & living, personal, hygiene and teacher kits and one box of baby blankets totaling just over 100 kits.

In addition to the kits a total of \$970.00 was sent to Canadian Lutheran World Relief in support of the We Care Program.

Flock Care 2016

Submitted by: Janice Hawkings

Through 2016, Flock Care, (now numbering 10 members) continue to nurture caring and supportive relationships within the church community. With phone calls and visits we maintain connection with the church family for those who are grieving, moving into nursing homes, in hospital, or at home. As always, most of these relationships and visits are a part of the ministry for every member of our church family, for that we thank you. Another part of Pastoral care is bringing communion to the home or hospital, is carried out by Pastor Lee or Pat Kaack.

If you are interested in joining this ministry please call Janice Hawkings 403 278 8059.

You can also help us by letting us know if you have some concerns about someone in our community who is ill or needs some help.

Guiding Mission

Submitted by: Darren Tenor & Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor

“As the sunflower follows the sun, we should follow the Son.”

The Mission Guiding Team was formed and authorized at the January 2014 Annual General Meeting by the general assembly of The Congregation. In 2016, the Mission Team (now just three volunteers) is still taking on new experiments and challenging ourselves to grow the church with tolerance and creativity. If you would like to change our church for the better, consider joining the Guiding Mission Team for a short term or long-term initiative.

The Guiding Mission team follows a general process that includes:

- 1) Listening to various groups/stakeholders
- 2) Discerning what was said
- 3) Developing a list of experiments that come out of step 1 & 2
- 4) Proceed with experiments
- 5) Evaluate the results
- 6) Repeat

What makes up a Good Experiment?

Experiments are intended to be small, easy wins that are light on structure and require no expertise. They should be simple with no preconceived outcomes, and are allowed to fail as they challenge us to step out

of what is comfortable and “normal”. Experiments are a way to create further curiosity, they focus on the local area around us, and are meant to inspire boundary crossing to expand what it means to be a church.

2016 Experiments for The Guiding Mission Team:

Experiment: Place a Little Free Library on LCOS property.

2016 Results: Successful

Status: Complete

Notes: Initiated by the Guiding Mission Team, a small team of interested volunteers came together from the Fall of 2015 to the Winter 2016. They planned, designed, built, decorated, and mounted the Little Free Library on LCOS property. The library has been in use continually since, with donations being added to the library from inside and outside of the congregation on a growing basis. It should be noted that the design of the Library wasn't simple, and required sophisticated skills on the part of the volunteers to plan, build and construct the structure.

Experiment: Set up an Adult ESL Speaking Program

2016 Results: Successful

Status: Ongoing

Notes: The Mission Group applied for and was awarded a \$2,800 grant from the synod anti-poverty grant program to set up an Adult ESL Speaking Program. The initial program was set up to run for 10 weeks beginning in October every Wednesday from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm.

The classes are conversational style geared to new arrivals in Canada. Topics covered may include trips to the doctor or school. The classes are geared more to those waiting on official language classes or those that could use additional speaking practice. Though the classes are offered inside the church, there is no religious component.

The program is instructed by congregation member and teacher Lisa Lindgren with volunteer assistants Joe and Shaaron Schulz, Margaret Heimbigner and others. In addition, Karen Turner and Debra Aichele provide babysitting.

The class has been small but successful. One of our first students gained the confidence to apply for and be hired for a local job. Maram, from our refugee family, has also been attending.

We are looking at filling 12 to 14 spots in the next 10 week course in 2017 and at that point will determine if the program continues.

Experiment: Join MACG (Metro Alliance for the Common Good).

2016 Results: Obtained membership in MACG

Status: Ongoing

Notes: In 2015 The Guiding Mission team was asked to evaluate joining the Metro Alliance for the Common Good by the Church Board. It was determined in 2016 that we should join.

The Metro Alliance For the Common Good brings together organizations and communities of Calgary to transform our city into a community which acts justly and respects all.

Objectives

- Create a network involving people from diverse religious, non-profit, labour, neighbourhood and ethnic groups to foster meaningful relationships between and within these communities,
- Develop leaders who can promote healthy and effective civic life,
- Effectively address the key justice issues facing Calgary,
- Harness the voice and the power of the people of Calgary to transform our city by addressing the systems, policies, and underlying causes of poverty and injustice.

MACG is directed by a team of leaders from participating institutions. It is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the oldest and largest network of broad-based organizations in North America. Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor is a member of their leadership team. MACG presently has 15 member organizations including various religious organizations, unions, non-profit and anti-poverty groups and is continuing to grow.

Regional Action Team (RATS) with MACG

MACG has formed two action teams to take focused action on issues identified as important within the City of Calgary. One team will be focusing on issues related to Seniors. Initially we will be conducting interviews to gather information on the wide range of challenges seniors face. After the initial information gathering stage a plan of action on one of the issues identified will be selected.

Pastor Lee and Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor are the Co-chairs of this team. If you are aware of individuals or organizations that work directly with seniors and their challenges please contact Pastor Lee or Katharine to help us connect.

The other regional action team is addressing reconciliation between the Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Community. If you would like to participate in this topic contact Katharine to be put in touch with the other action team.

Experiment: Conversation Groups - Youth

2016 Results: Planning

Status: Ongoing

Notes: Starting in November of 2016, we began to develop and explore a new set of conversation groups. These conversations will occur in January and February of 2017 and will attempt to explore new ways to help youth and families with the challenges they're facing. At this point, money has been set aside for food and refreshments, questions have been developed, and times for these conversation groups have been set in the calendar. Please consider joining the conversation in 2017. It takes a village to raise a child and it is the Guiding Mission's hope to create an atmosphere where Lutheran Church of Our Saviour can be an important part of that village for our families and the larger community.

Kiva Microloans

Submitted by: Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor

*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 16 team members that have loaned over \$19,000 through over 700 loans.

Lenten bags for Brenda Strafford Centre (domestic violence survivors)

Submitted by: Annabel Glanville

Thank you so much to our congregation! In 2015 we collected 87 pillows and over 70 bags. 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.

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

Submitted by: Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor

For the seventh straight year LCOS has hosted the MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) and MOPSnext (Mothers of School Age Children) program at our church two Wednesdays a month from September through May. MOPS is an international organization that is geared toward supplying support for Moms. MOPS creates a time out for Moms filled with fun, food, learning, fellowship, and faith while their kids are having fun in MOPPETS; the childcare program. Though MOPS is an International Organization the MOPS chapter at LCOS is the only existing group in Calgary.

At the end of May a decision will be made on the continuation of MOPS in September depending on availability of volunteers to run the program.

Mother's Day Fundraiser for Brenda Strafford Centre

Submitted by: Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor

On Mother's Day this year we asked that congregation members consider donating a towel or two to the Brenda Strafford Centre in appreciation of a special lady in their life. The congregation responded by donating over 400 new towels.

Each Mother and her children that arrive at the centre receive one towel to share among the entire family for the week. By collecting the towels we provided an opportunity for the centre to give out a few more clean towels each week. Thank you to everyone that contributed towels to the Brenda Strafford Centre for the Prevention of Domestic Violence.

Memory Plus

Submitted by: Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor

In 2015 the church was contacted by Alberta Health Services in regards to their Memory Plus group. The group provides ongoing support to couples where one partner is suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Each couple goes through a 12 week course elsewhere and then comes to our location/group for ongoing support. The group is run by volunteers with support from a social worker. Lutheran Church of Our Saviour provides a meeting place along with coffee and tea each week. The group size varies with typical attendance from 12 to 20 people. They meet every Monday afternoon September thru June. If you are aware of a family that could use this support please contact the office for further information.

Mustard Seed Ministry:

Submitted by: Ken Farn

Serving breakfast once per month from September to June each year has become a popular activity at Our Saviour's. It allows new members an opportunity to take part and meet other members more quickly. Several couples also participate. We encourage all members and youth over sixteen, to register and help us serve the less fortunate at The Mustard Seed.

If you would like more information or to be included on the mail list, please contact Ken Farn at kgfarn@telusplanet.net

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.

News and information about Operation Eyesight is published in the Vine throughout the year. 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.

For information on all of the programs and to contribute to Operation Eyesight call 403-283-6323 or visit www.operationeyesight.com.

Samaritan Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Submitted by: Jaqui Anderson

This year there were a number of people who helped organize and prepare for our 6th Annual Operation Christmas Child Fill-A-Shoebox event held on November 19th. Especially notable is that one of our youth, Arianna Tenor, spent hours organizing and counting items before the packing day. Over 50 volunteers helped pack 304 shoeboxes filled to the brim with school supplies, hygiene items, toys and age appropriate gifts. In addition to donated items, cash donations of \$1353.00 were given towards shipping costs. 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.

By the end of November we had collected 609 boxes in total.

Sandwich Sunday

Submitted by: Marg Evans in previously

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".

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

Submitted by: Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor

This year marked the 24th Stampede Breakfast hosted by the Church for our community. For the second year in a row we hosted the breakfast inside the Fellowship Hall due to threatening weather.

If running out of food is a sign of success then we surely had a great event. By 8:30 am we had run out of sausages and had sent volunteers out to purchase more food. We anticipate that we saw double the typical attendance with an estimate of between 600 and 700 people dropping in.

Thank you to all of those volunteers that signed up to help in 2016 and for all those that saw a need when you arrived that morning and jumped in.

In 2017 we will be preparing to celebrate our 25th breakfast with attendance by the Bishop. In addition, we will be prepared for a similar attendance to 2016.

SW Conference Refugee Mission

Submitted by: Jaqui Anderson on behalf of the SW

September 8/2016...Months of planning, preparations and great anticipation...a welcoming committee holding banners....waiting....waiting...and finally there they were....4 weary travellers...our Syrian refugee family; Zuheir, Maram, Mohammed (age 3) and Hamza (not yet a year old), safely here in Calgary!

On the drive from the airport to their new home many words of thanks were expressed, lots of pointing and the word- "Wow!". Zuheir had practiced a line in English..."We prayed for Canada...happy, happy". And now their hopes and dreams were coming true-a safe place for their family.

No English was needed when the family checked out their new home, just expressions of pure joy and relief. Then we saw the waves of exhaustion wash over them-time for rest and a fresh start in the morning. Also, a time for volunteers to catch their breath after the rush to secure and set up an apartment.

The newly wed Al Dukkaks had to flee to safety first in Lebanon when their home was bombed in Damascus, Syria in 2013. Mohammed and Hamza were born in Beirut, their shelter- the parking garage of an apartment building. No money and no future. Finally, after many trips to the Canadian consulate and UN offices, they were overjoyed to be accepted by Canada.

The SW Conference Refugee Committee was formed in response to the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Challenge put out by the ELCIC-a goal of sponsoring 500 refugees.

To date, there are 7 churches who have provided a variety of levels and types of support. Lutheran Church Of Our Saviour provided the main role as signer of the official government sponsorship agreement. Financial support is still coming in, but we have already met the required monies to support one family of 4 for 1 year. We will make a decision in 2017 as to the future direction of the committee and possible future sponsorships.

The sponsorship is a 50/50 financial agreement between the Canadian government and the SW Conference, with our churches providing all the volunteer work to help the Al Dukkaks, have a successful transition to life in Canada.

The past 4 months have been a blur of appointments with government agencies, doctors and dentists, schools and refugee support agencies. We owe a debt of gratitude to Marla Mulloy of Advent Lutheran, who has taken on the role of primary communication liaison and Canadian "mother" to the family. Members of Our Saviour Lutheran have been very involved in many capacities, serving on the budget committee, providing ESL classes and babysitting, some private ESL visits, daily problem solving, booking and providing rides to appointments, fun outings and familiarization to their neighbourhood, and city, technology support, shopping, job advice and mentorship, visits and friendship. The family has been invited to a number of church member's homes, including the Andersons of LCOS. Zuheir, Maram, Mohammed and

Hamza have celebrated their first Eid and Christmas in Canada. The Al Dukkaks are determined to find ways to thank each church for the support they are receiving. So far they have visited 3 churches, giving heart-felt words of thanks. During the visit to Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, the family was delighted with a 1st birthday party for Hamza.

At present, Zuheir is attending ESL classes full time. He has demonstrated his wonderful talents as a professional chef, catering meals for Advent Lutheran and 2 families at LCOS. We know he worries about how he will find a job and provide for his young family. Luckily there are church members willing to assist in this next challenge.

Maram has faced, with courage, many dental appointments. She cares for the children at home, but also has shown her talent for hairdressing and manicure work, with willing church members. She attended Wednesday ESL classes at LCOS in the fall and, we hope for a continuation of these classes + involvement with the Mothers Of Pre-Schoolers group in the months ahead.

We have encountered the challenges that come with language barriers. Also the great rewards of helping this family overcome huge changes in culture and surroundings. An especially cold December with -25 degree temperatures and wind-chill was difficult enough for seasoned Canadians...frightening and disorienting for people who have never experienced winter.

Children adapt the easiest...Little Mohammed is already speaking a few words of English and delights in sharing this knowledge with relatives still in Lebanon. (they communicate using a free phone app called "What's App") Little Hamza just goes with the flow. We have watched him learn to crawl, then walk, and now run. New teeth and baby milestones are just a part of his Canadian experience.

We are grateful that God sent us such a happy and motivated family. Zuheir and Maram are wonderful parents, open and friendly individuals.

As time goes on, and language becomes easier, we will find out more about their past, learn more details about family in Lebanon, and share in all the joys, frustrations and successes of this new life.

I would encourage volunteers to share their time and talents with this family, and consider serving on the SW Conference committee.

We thank God for the opportunity to share in His work,

Urgent Care

Submitted by: Janice Hawkings

Thanks to generous donations to urgent care we have been able to give tangible help where needed to keep food on the table, essential services going, or provide much needed transportation with bus tickets. Often a little help at the right time has kept families or individuals from being homeless. We help when the Calgary city services and other charities are not able to, or the circumstance is unique and they fall through the cracks. Our present fund for Urgent care has been used up so if you would like to donate to this designated fund the need is great, especially with the economy as it is.

Vacation Bible School

Submitted by: Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor and Shauna Gross

This year LCOS hosted Vacation Bible School August 22nd-26th. We chose not to advertise as much, so our numbers were down slightly from last year with 50 students in attendance (74 kids in 2015). Of those 50 children, 37 were not congregation members. The kids and parents loved the Cave Quest theme and are already looking forward to coming back in 2017. The kids and the volunteers are what makes Vacation Bible School successful. Thank you to all those who helped organize, decorate, donated their time during the VBS week to run programs, were leaders or donated items. In total there were close to 30 volunteers. We did not run an afternoon program this year.

Our children raised \$336.00 for The Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation at Vacation Bible School. This organization rescues injured and orphaned wild animals in Alberta including bats, beavers, owls and many other animals. Thank you to everyone that helped the children raise these funds to help care for God's creatures.

In 2017, Vacation Bible School is tentatively booked for the week of August 21st to 25th with the theme Maker Fun Factory. Imagine a world where curious kids become hands-on inventors who discover they're lovingly crafted by God imagination with interactive decorations and experiences, helping them discover they're lovingly crafted by God. It should be lots of fun!

Worship Ministries

Attendance by Service

Submitted by: Cliff Blumhagen, Financial Secretary

2016	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Total	2015 Total
January	225		611	836	758
February	242		547	789	674
March	308		524	832	930
April	248		460	708	938
May	222	310	364	896	911
June		577		577	593
July		491	154	645	558
August		660		660	616
September	273	133	320	726	630
October	372		581	953	795
November	239		524	763	1,012
December	204		512	716	723
Total	2,333	2,171	4,597	9,101	9,138
Average Each Sunday				178	175
Christmas Eve Services				582	536

The numbers on the previous page are for Sunday services attendance for 2016 by month. The 2015 monthly total is listed for comparison.

Easter Sunday was in April in 2015 and in March in 2016.

Attendance for Christmas Eve services are shown separately.

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

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 an important role, providing leadership in worship through music and song. We have kept busy this year learning a variety of new pieces as well as performing numbers we have sung previously.

The choir generally sings an anthem and assists in supporting the musical components of worship three or more Sundays each month during our operating year (September to May).

The choir asks that members of the church consider singing in the choir. Numbers have been steady, but we would like to have robust enough attendance that members do not feel uncomfortable about having to be absent on a Sunday when the choir is scheduled to sing. Singing is good for you, too. (Good for the body, mind AND soul!) We practice on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm for exactly one hour. 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 2017. This fall especially will be important as we prepare musical numbers around the celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

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 for more details.

Hand Chime Choir

Submitted by: Jennifer Sissions

"Come on ring those bells, light the Christmas tree!" was our appeal to the LCOS congregation in early September 2016. In less than a week, 11 members for the 2016 Christmas season came forward. Our ringer's team included Carolyn Anderson, Reiko Formello, Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor, Karin Kerr, Laura Lodberg, Sheri Pearson, Tracy Rude, Dorothea Schaab, Arianna Tenor, Lori Todd, and Kerry-Lynn Wersch. A series of six rehearsals began on Sunday, September 25th and finished on Sunday, December 4. We rang for the early and late services on Sunday, Dec. 11 and was joined by guest organist, Margaret Fullerton, on two songs. We were blessed with the beautiful voices of three singers, Ainsley Fielden, Nevaeh Gross, and Erica Todd on Sunday, Dec. 18 when they sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth" with the hand chimes. We are thankful for the musical talent shared by all those involved in the success of the hand chimes this year!

Parochial Report

Submitted by Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor

Members received	
By Baptism—child	10
By Baptism—adult	2
By Transfer	<u>2</u>
Total members received during 2015	14
Members removed during 2015	
By Death	2
Transfer Out	<u>10</u>
Total members removed during 2015	12
Funerals conducted	
Members	2
Non-Members	<u>2</u>
Total funerals conducted	4
Weddings conducted	
Members	1
Non-Members	<u>1</u>
Total weddings conducted	2
Baptisms affirmed (Confirmation)	4

9 AM Praise Team

Submitted by: Margaret Fullerton

The 9 AM Praise Team is to a group of musicians that support and enhance worship in the intimate setting of the 9:00 service. We continue to be blessed with a small faithful group of musicians to lead the music in worship. We practice on occasion on Thursday nights, but due to busy schedules, practices generally occur Sunday mornings before worship. We welcome new musicians to join us in music, and lots of good humor. Interested musicians are welcome to contact Ed Kinzel, Elizabeth Lietz or Margaret Fullerton.

11:00 Praise Team

Submitted by: Terrylee Mckay

The purpose the 11:00 Praise Singers is not to be worship leaders but to be lead Worshipers. This is a “closed small group” as each member must have a certain level of music background in order to be part of the group. We practice at a very quick pace and often sing some complicated music. This group of singers meet one per week on Wednesday nights for one hour.

Our group has grown this year and consists of 12 members:

Doug Drennan:	Bass
Joan Drennan:	Soprano and tambourine
Beth Eberhardt:	Alto, Violin
Ken Eberhardt:	Drums

Yvonne Eberhardt:	Alto
Reiko Formella:	Soprano, flute
Grant Gilchrist:	Bass
Lisa Henderson:	Alto
Alex Mckay:	Keyboard, Tenor
Terrylee Mckay:	Soprano
Colby Ramson:	Bass Guitar
Laura Stewart	Tenor

This past year we have provided special music at regular church services as well as the Twelfth Night Of Christmas Music in January and the Okotoks Community Gospel Night in April. Thank you to each member who has contributed to this group.

Psalm 104: 33 *I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.*

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 with this duty all year long.

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.

Nomination Committee

Submitted by: Debbie Montgomery, Chair

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 attend either the National Convention or the Synod Convention which are held on alternative years.

LCOS's Board consisted of the following members in 2016:

Garry Mihaichuk – Chair	Bob Montgomery – Vice-Chair
Jaqui Anderson	Elaine Barnes
Rachelle Ellis	Phyllis Gale
Doug Gerbrandt	Jens Kaack
Jennifer May	Darren Tenor

The following members have agreed to serve on the Board for 2017:

Garry Mihaichuk <i>6th year</i>	Bob Montgomery <i>5th year</i>
Rachelle Ellis <i>3rd year</i>	Phyllis Gale <i>2nd year</i>
Doug Gerbrandt <i>2nd year</i>	Jens Kaack <i>4th year</i>
Avril LeBlanc <i>1st year</i>	Shirley Moule <i>1st year</i>
Keith Rude <i>1st year</i>	Darren Tenor <i>3rd year</i>

Garry Mihaichuk will be representing LCOS at the National Convention to be held in Winnipeg from July 6th-8th. Thank you, Garry for attending on our behalf.

Thank you to all the members of the Nominating Committee for their dedication and hard work this year. The 2016 Nominating Committee consisted of Elizabeth Lietz, Benita Nickel, Lori Todd and Debbie Montgomery. Both Benita Nickel and Elizabeth Lietz are stepping down from the committee. The following have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2017:

Carolyn Anderson
Debbie Montgomery
Debra Starratt
Lori Todd

A Child First Preschool (January to June 2016)

Submitted by: Jennifer Sissons

A Child First Preschool's third year at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour began with the 2015-2016 school year. Our two classes consisted of a 3-day AM class, which met on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. and a 2-day AM class that met on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. The classes started with head teacher Ms. Joelle Pollock and assistant Ms. Sherri Hewett. Ms. Joelle filled in for permanent head teacher, Ms. Lynne McLaughlin, for the month of September. Ms. Lynne started at the preschool on October 1 due to a severe foot injury. Both were replaced with head teacher Ms. Andrea Waara & assistants Ms. Kelly Fornataro (MWF classes) and Ms. Joelle Pollock (Tuesdays & Thursday classes) in February 2016. All of our classes were full with wait lists.

In March 2016, we determined that we would discontinue the program at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour. Shauna Gross, our former head teacher at the preschool, was offered the space for a program that we knew would thrive through her leadership. We walked her through every aspect of starting a preschool and offered her assistance in every way we could to provide her a good start to her first year. We look forward to continue being a mentor for Shauna Gross and her success with Painted Wombat Fine Arts Preschool. We are grateful for the partnership we had with Lutheran Church of Our Saviour for the past three years and for the opportunity to provide a Christian preschool for south Calgary. We appreciate all of the help that Shauna Gross, Pastor Lee Woolery, and Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor provided for us this past year.

Painted Wombat Preschool (September 2016—continuing)

Submitted by: Shauna Gross

Painted Wombat Fine Arts Preschool opened its doors for the first time in September 2016. It is located in the same space that was previously occupied by A Child First Preschool. In June, the church removed a temporary partition that separated the two rooms which resulted in one larger area. This space allows Painted Wombat to have 24 children enrolled in the preschool at a time. Currently, there are two teachers in the classroom, Shauna Gross and Joelle Pollock. The school opened in September with classes for 3 and 4-year olds; a 3-day class and a 2-day class. The 3-day class runs Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9am until 11:30am, while the 2-day class is Monday/Wednesday from 9am until 11:30am. Together there are a total of 19 children attending. Next year the school plans to offer a separate class for each age group, a Monday/Wednesday/Friday morning class for the 4-year olds, and a Tuesday/Thursday morning class for the 3-year olds.

Building & Property Facilities

Submitted by: Ken Farn

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.

Glance Back at 2016:

- The Youth Room was cleaned up and given a new look. Old couches, furniture, floor riser etc. were hauled to the dump. Many thanks to several members as well as staff who loaded the furniture onto a large trailer and hauled to the dump.
- Furnace Room was also cleaned up with old furniture and filing cabinets hauled to the dump. For fire code reasons the furnace room will not be used as a storage room in the future.
- The two SW classrooms used for the preschool were joined together to make one larger room to better facilitate the operations of a pre-school. The puppet tree and dividing wall were both removed to create additional classroom space.
- Eve troughs and down spouts on the west side of the building were replaced along with new fascia boards to better manage heavy rainfall and runoff.
- Heavy rainfall caused flooding in the Sanctuary a couple of time this summer. Back up from the catch basin in the north parking lot appears to be the culprit consequently we have installed drain plugs outside the north and east fire escape doors to restrict back up during spring and summer months.
- Fellowship Hall carpet continues to be an aging issue. Re-gluing panels and seam repairs will continue to be a requirement once or twice a year in order to prolong the life of the carpet. In the next few years a new carpet, possibly carpet tile will replace the existing roll carpet.
- Parking lot repairs together with an asphalt sealer was used to prolong the life of the parking lot. However, excessive surface water accumulates in the north west corner of the lot. Channeling or an additional drain will be considered in the new year to improve drainage.

Glance Forward to 2017:

- Key lock changes and a formal building access review to be proposed again
- Exterior painting of trim as required.
- South entrance security light
- Parking lot modifications to eliminate water pooling at NW corner...Cost TBD
- West offices roof replacement of shingles.... Est \$8,000
- Review of Carbon Tax impact vs replacement of two original furnaces.

Finance

Submitted by: Doug Drennan

Treasurer Commentary:

For the year 2016, LCOS experienced sustained Budgeted giving at rates 9.45% lower than in the previous year. In spite of this, LCOS members have demonstrated generosity of spirit and Designated giving has continued to fund good works in the world.

LCOS, as a member of the South West Conference of the Synod of Alberta, joined with other SW congregations to sponsor a Syrian refugee family to Canada under the Federal government Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program. 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. Details of this giving are summarized in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

The Ark Mural Capital fund raiser was completed early in the year.

Total expenses for 2016 were under plan. Salaries & Benefits were lower due to the Youth Ministry position vacancy from May to August. This also had an impact on spending in the Children's and Youth Ministries. Budgeted restoration work on the pipe organ was not performed, due to lack of availability of service personnel. Utility costs were lower than budgeted due to a milder than normal 2015-16 winter. The mortgage was retired as planned on March 1.

LCOS ended 2016 in a strong surplus position, due mainly to Refugee Mission fund raising. All surplus funds related to this directed giving have been added to the Balance Sheet and will be used to meet our sponsorship obligations going forward. The Capital, Memorial, and Kitchen funds increased on the year-end Balance Sheet. The Urgent Care fund was fully depleted leaving a \$0 balance. Lastly, LCOS is now debt free.

The budget for the year 2017 has been approved by the Board. Significant expenditures in the coming year, on Capital projects and the Refugee Mission, are expected to be funded from the Balance Sheet.

Thanks 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:

- 26 people who, on a rotational basis, count, balance, & deposit Sunday morning offerings.

Financial Reviewers:

- Two 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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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, 2016 .

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.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob Keith", written over a horizontal line.

Bob Keith

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brian M. Prunkle", written over a horizontal line.

Brian Prunkle

Calgary, Alberta
January 12, 2017

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, 2016

	As at 31/12/2016	As at 31/12/2015
ASSET		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Petty Cash	299.84	300.10
Current Account: RBC	71,322.06	59,454.53
Refugee Mission Account RBC (Note 2)	14,743.32	0.00
Guaranteed Income Certificates (Note 3)	24,608.01	24,289.66
Share Donations (Note 4)	12,123.50	0.00
GST Receivable	1,182.63	704.40
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	124,279.36	84,748.69
FIXED ASSETS		
Furniture & Equipment	151,900.93	151,900.93
Land & Buildings	873,864.03	873,864.03
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	1,025,764.96	1,025,764.96
TOTAL ASSET	1,150,044.32	1,110,513.65
LIABILITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Kitchen Fund	2,550.00	2,000.00
Piano Fund	2,713.58	2,713.58
Refugee Mission Fund	29,187.10	0.00
English as a Second Language (ESL) Program	910.00	0.00
Urgent Care Ministry	0.00	2,046.58
Men's Breakfast Fund	2,437.09	2,937.09
Youth Funds	8,388.27	8,388.27
Capital Fund	10,199.23	3,373.88
Other Designated (Acadia School Lunch Program)	497.27	185.00
Memorial Fund	14,145.86	11,285.86
Designated Funds	71,028.40	32,930.26
Vacation Payable	1,867.90	628.61
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	72,896.30	33,558.87
LONG TERM LIABILITIES		
Mortgage Loan (Note 1)	0.00	7,088.88
TOTAL LONG TERM LIABILITIES	0.00	7,088.88
TOTAL LIABILITY	72,896.30	40,647.75
EQUITY		
MEMBER'S EQUITY		
Opening Balance	1,069,865.90	1,017,865.06
Net Capital Expenditures (Note 8)	-31,009.26	30,516.93
Operating Surplus / Net Income	38,291.38	21,483.91
CLOSING BALANCE	1,077,148.02	1,069,865.90
TOTAL EQUITY	1,077,148.02	1,069,865.90
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	1,150,044.32	1,110,513.65

Generated On: 06/01/2017

LUTHERAN CHURCH of OUR SAVIOUR
Comparative Income Statement (Cash basis) : Actual vs Budget
Year End - December 31, 2016

	Actual 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016	Budget 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016	
REVENUE			
RECEIPTS			
Envelopes	336,600.65	370,000.00	
Loose Offerings	6,744.55	7,000.00	
Other Income (Note 5)	11,546.16	11,000.00	
Cost Recovery	1,766.72	0.00	
Debt Reduction Funds	210.00	2,300.00	
Investment Income	318.35	316.00	
Youth Funds	1,238.85	1,300.00	
BUDGETED FUNDS		358,425.28	391,916.00
DESIGNATED FUNDS			
Canada Lutheran	91.92	0.00	
CLWR	6,682.03	7,000.00	
Lutheran Campus Min (Drive for 5)	511.30	0.00	
Lutheran Theological Seminary	205.00	0.00	
VeBS User Fees	1,263.00	1,500.00	
Flower Funds	1,390.00	1,100.00	
Samaritan's Purse	1,353.00	0.00	
Other (Note 6)	10,598.91	5,000.00	
Refugee Mission (Note 7)	35,869.52	0.00	
Urgent Care Ministry	3,260.00	4,000.00	
Memorial Fund	2,860.00	1,000.00	
Capital Ministry	6,615.35	4,300.00	
DESIGNATED FUNDS		70,700.03	23,900.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		429,125.31	415,816.00
TOTAL REVENUE		429,125.31	415,816.00
EXPENSE			
DISBURSEMENTS			
DESIGNATED FUNDS			
Canada Lutheran	110.25	0.00	
CLWR	6,682.03	7,000.00	
Lutheran Campus Min (Drive for 5)	511.30	0.00	
Lutheran Theological Seminary	205.00	0.00	
Mustard Seed Ministry	500.00	500.00	
Flower Funds	1,359.14	1,200.00	
Samaritan's Purse	1,353.00	0.00	
Other	8,771.23	5,000.00	
Refugee Mission	6,682.42	0.00	
Urgent Care Ministry	6,048.76	5,000.00	
DESIGNATED FUNDS		32,223.13	18,700.00
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY			
Cradle Roll	275.20	500.00	
VeBS	1,730.11	2,700.00	
Young Explorers	406.44	2,000.00	
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY		2,411.75	5,200.00

LUTHERAN CHURCH of OUR SAVIOUR
Comparative Income Statement (Cash basis) : Actual vs Budget
Year End - December 31, 2016

	Actual 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016	Budget 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016	
OPERATIONS			
Advertising	550.83	475.00	
Church/Yard Maintenance	11,948.93	12,500.00	
ELCIC & Operations Conferences	4,012.75	4,000.00	
Furniture & Fixtures	261.55	500.00	
GST Expense	1,975.83	2,000.00	
Insurance - Operations	7,085.15	7,020.00	
Insurance - WCB	1,024.53	1,000.00	
Janitor/Maintenance	8,926.80	11,500.00	
Janitorial Supplies	825.16	700.00	
Kitchen Supplies	2,818.46	2,400.00	
Video Licence	355.00	355.00	
Music Licences	291.88	300.00	
Discretionary	1,182.00	0.00	
Mortgage Interest	38.62	39.12	
Office Supplies	1,693.09	1,700.00	
Financial Secretary Supplies	1,199.29	1,250.00	
Treasurer Supplies	2,140.51	1,600.00	
Stewardship Program	86.26	100.00	
Photocopier Lease	4,808.16	4,850.00	
Technology	2,439.17	3,000.00	
Utilities - Gas	4,679.67	6,500.00	
Utilities - Electricity	8,434.78	9,500.00	
Utilities - Telephone	1,531.44	1,900.00	
Utilities - Water & Sewer	1,528.95	1,400.00	
Utilities - Waste & Recycling	336.06	350.00	
OPERATIONS		70,174.87	74,939.12
SALARIES & BENEFITS			
Benefits	29,201.05	35,236.00	
Salaries & Housing	194,282.42	206,105.00	
Staff Training & Continuing Education	1,670.00	2,800.00	
Staff Discretionary	1,056.07	1,500.00	
Staff Travel Expense	1,890.76	2,700.00	
SALARIES & BENEFITS		228,100.30	248,341.00
ADULT			
Adult Education Programs	510.00	400.00	
Guest Speakers	0.00	250.00	
Library	1,546.09	1,500.00	
Congregational Studies	474.83	400.00	
Devotional Materials	394.35	350.00	
ADULT		2,925.27	2,900.00
CHURCH FAMILY			
Family Cards	0.00	50.00	
Family Events	2,747.04	2,500.00	
Flock Care	143.91	100.00	
CHURCH FAMILY		2,890.95	2,650.00

LUTHERAN CHURCH of OUR SAVIOUR

Comparative Income Statement (Cash basis) : Actual vs Budget

Year End - December 31, 2016

	Actual 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016	Budget 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016	
MISSION			
Benevolence	22,000.00	22,000.00	
Hospital Ministries	1,400.00	1,400.00	
Mission Ministry	2,939.47	3,000.00	
Stampede Breakfast	1,058.94	1,000.00	
MISSION		27,398.41	27,400.00
WORSHIP			
9:00 Team - Music	115.00	200.00	
11:00 Team - Music	157.21	200.00	
Choir	152.37	300.00	
Maintenance - Organ & Piano	220.00	2,300.00	
Maintenance - Sound & Mikes	79.58	700.00	
Worship Supplies	1,239.46	1,500.00	
Guest Speakers (Pastor Relief)	200.00	750.00	
WORSHIP		2,163.62	5,950.00
YOUTH			
Youth Activities	405.14	2,400.00	
Affirmation of Baptism	24.95	100.00	
Discipleship and Education	216.08	700.00	
Youth Outreach	310.58	800.00	
YOUTH		956.75	4,000.00
CAPITAL DISBURSEMENTS			
Capital Replacement Items - Parking Lot	14,500.00	17,000.00	
Mortgage Principal	7,088.88	7,088.88	
CAPITAL DISBURSEMENTS		21,588.88	24,088.88
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		390,833.93	414,169.00
TOTAL EXPENSE		390,833.93	414,169.00
NET INCOME		38,291.38	1,647.00

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Mortgage Loan: FaithLife Financial
Mortgage retired - Paid in full March 1, 2016
2. Refugee Mission Account: Royal Bank of Canada
Segregated funds to support SW/ Conference Refugee program.
Post year end funds transfer of \$2,287.50 from Current Account
to Refugee Mission Account for December designated cash receipts.
3. Guaranteed Income Certificates: Scotia McLeod
Principal: \$24,500.00 (Concentra Financial Annual Interest GIC)
Interest: 1.850%
Matures: May 10, 2017
4. Share Donations: Scotia McLeod
Shares: Trans Canada Corporation
Quantity: 200 shares
Value: \$12,123.50 (\$60.6175 per share) designated to Refugee Mission.

LUTHERAN CHURCH of OUR SAVIOUR

Comparative Income Statement (Cash basis) : Actual vs Budget

Year End - December 31, 2016

	Actual 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016	Budget 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016
5. Other Income:		
Rent	9,225.00	
Hot Dog / Ice Cream Sundays	1,573.30	
Employment Insurance 2015 Premium Rebate	597.72	
Used Book Sales	150.00	
	<u>11,546.02</u>	
6. Other Designated Income:		
ESL Program Grant (Synod of Alberta)	2,800.00	
Watoto Canada	1,343.15	
Bluesea Philanthropy (Coldest Night Walk)	1,129.25	
Acadia School Lunch Program	940.00	
OCC: Shoe Boxes	797.99	
CLWR: We Care Bags	765.35	
Other Refugees	695.00	
Lutheran Hospital Ministry	570.00	
Kitchen Fund	550.00	
MOPS Grant (FaithLife Financial)	500.00	
Alberta Wildlife Conservation	336.00	
Veteran's Food Bank	25.00	
Calgary Drop-in Centre	20.00	
Miscellaneous	127.17	
	<u>10,598.91</u>	
7. Refugee Mission Income:		
All Saints Lutheran Church	14,325.50	
Lutheran Church of Our Saviour	9,981.52	
Hope Lutheran Church	5,617.50	
Lutheran Church of the Cross	3,125.00	
Advent Lutheran Church	2,600.00	
Prince of Faith Lutheran Church	220.00	
	<u>35,869.52</u>	
8. Net Capital Expenditures:		
Refugee Mission Fund Created / Increased	- 29,187.10	
Mortgage Principal Paid / Eliminated	- 7,088.88	
Capital Fund Increased	- 6,825.35	
Memorial Fund Increased	- 2,860.00	
Urgent Care Fund Reduced	- 2,046.58	
ESL Fund Created / Increased	- 910.00	
Kitchen Fund Increased	- 550.00	
Men's Breakfast Fund Reduced	- 500.00	
Other Designated Increased (Acadia Lunch)	- 312.27	
	<u>31,009.26</u>	

Financial Secretary's Report

Submitted by: Cliff Blumhagen, Financial Secretary

Giving Statistics:

	2016	2015	2014
Number of envelopes issued	180	168	176
Number of envelopes unused	14	9	13
Number of pledges	78	79	82
Number at or over pledge	47	52	45
Number under pledge	31	27	37
Percentage at or over pledge	60%	65%	54%

Giving:

	2016	% Change	2015	2014
Budgeted / General Giving	\$343,555.20	-9.45%	\$379,393.28	\$367,534.89
Designated Giving	\$70,572.86	+60.26%	\$44,035.75	\$31,840.31

Designated giving for 2016 includes:

- CLWR (\$4,985.00)
- CLWR:Ft. McMurray Fire (\$1,697.03)
- Urgent Care (\$3,260.00)
- Flower Fund (\$1,390.00)
- Coldest Night of the Year (\$1,129.25)
- Grant:Alberta Synod:ESL Program (\$2,800.00)
- Watoto Concert (\$1,343.15)
- Capital Maintenance (includes Ark Mural) (\$6,615.35)
- Refugee Mission-LCOS (\$9,981.52)
- Refugee Mission-Advent (\$2,600.00)
- Refugee Mission-All Saints (\$14,325.50)
- Refugee Mission-Cross (\$3,125.00)
- Refugee Mission-Hope (\$5,617.50)
- Samaritan's Purse (\$1,353.00)
- Memorial Fund (\$2,860.00)
- VBS Fees (\$1,263.00)

Designated giving for 2015 includes:

- Canadian Lutheran World Relief: \$4,880.00
- Canadian Lutheran World Relief-Give Life Project: \$1,270.00
- Canadian Lutheran World Relief-Nepal: \$1,310.00
- Urgent Care: \$3,000.00
- Flower Fund: \$1,150.00
- Memorial Fund: \$14,668.86
- Jack Beck Ticket Sales: \$1,190.00
- VBS Fees: \$1,054.00
- Capital Ministry-Roof Fund: \$7,750.00
- Samaritan's Purse: \$1,659.00

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

The Pre-Authorized Remittance program (PAR) that was implemented in 2004 continued in 2016. 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 2016, the amount given via the PAR program represented 13.9% of the total general / budget and designated giving. At the end of 2016, there were 21 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.

The Financial Secretary role includes the online receipt 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.

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.

The Financial Secretary and Pastor share the responsibility of reviewing and setting the direction for the annual Stewardship programming. In 2016, a stewardship program called 'Live Simply' was followed.

I coordinated the program and Katharine from the church office performed the administration work for the program. The program was run for four weeks in late October and November leading up to Stewardship Sunday on November 20. Thanks to Katharine for all the help to make this annual program a success!

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.

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
2017 Budget**

2016 Actual	2017 Budget
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RECEIPTS

General

Envelopes	336,601	340,000
Loose Offerings	6,745	7,000
Other Income	11,546	11,000
Debt Reduction Funds	210	
Youth Funds (Bottles)	1,239	1,300
Investment Income	318	453
Cost Recovery	1,767	
Total Budgeted Receipts	358,425	359,753

Designated Funds

Canada Lutheran Subscriptions	92	
CLWR	6,682	7,000
Lutheran Campus Ministries (Drive For 5)	511	
Lutheran Theological Seminary	205	
Flower Funds	1,390	1,200
Memorial Fund	2,860	1,000
Other Designated	10,599	5,000
Refugee Mission (Note 1)	35,870	
Samaritan's Purse	1,353	
Urgent Care Ministry	3,260	4,000
VEBS User Fees	1,263	1,500
Capital Ministry	6,615	840
Total Designated Funds	70,700	20,540

TOTAL RECEIPTS (Note 2)

429,125	380,293
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EXPENDITURES

Designated Funds

Canada Lutheran Subscriptions	110	
CLWR	6,682	7,000
Lutheran Campus Ministries (Drive for 5)	511	
Lutheran Theological Seminary	205	
Flower Funds	1,359	1,200
Mustard Seed Ministry (Note 3)	500	
Other Designated	8,771	5,000
Refugee Mission (Note 1)	6,682	
Samaritan's Purse	1,353	
Urgent Care Ministry	6,049	5,000
Total Designated Funds	32,223	18,200

Children's Ministry

Cradle Roll	275	500
VeBS	1,730	2,700
Young Explorers	406	2,000
Total Children's Ministry	2,412	5,200

Operations

Advertising	551	525
Church/Yard Maintenance	11,949	12,000
ELCIC & Ops. Conferences	4,013	3,950
Furniture & Fixtures	262	500
GST Expense	1,976	2,000
Insurance - WCB	1,025	1,000
Insurance - Operations (2016 includes appraisal)	7,085	5,200
Janitor/Maintenance	8,927	8,500
Janitor Supplies	825	700
Kitchen Supplies	2,818	2,400
Video Licence	355	355
Music Licence	292	300
Discretionary/Contingency	1,182	
Mortgage Principle & Interest	7,128	
Office Supplies	1,693	1,700
Financial Secretary Supplies	1,199	1,250
Treasurer Supplies	2,141	1,600
Stewardship Program / Consecration Sunday	86	100
Photocopier Lease	4,808	4,800
Technology (Note 4)	2,439	4,500
Utilities - Gas (Note 5)	4,680	7,000
Utilities - Electricity	8,435	9,000
Utilities - Telephone	1,531	1,700
Utilities - Water, Sewer & Sanitation	1,529	1,600
Utilities - Waste & Recycling	336	400
Total Operations	77,264	71,080

Capital Projects

Capital Replacement Items (Note 6)

Total Capital Projects

14,500	
14,500	-

Salaries & Benefits

Benefits

Salary & Housing Allowances

Continuing Education

Discretionary

Travel Expense

Total Salaries & Benefits

29,201	37,041
194,282	201,570
1,670	1,600
1,056	1,500
1,891	2,600
228,100	244,311

Adult Ministries

Adult Education Programs

Congregational Studies

Devotional Materials

Guest Speakers

Library

Total Adult Ministries

510	400
475	400
394	350
1,546	1,500
2,925	2,650

Church Family

Family Cards

Family Events

Flock Care

Reformation Celebrations

Total Church Family

	50
2,747	2,500
144	
	2,000
2,891	4,550

Mission

Benevolence

Hospital Ministries

Mission Ministry

MOPS

Stampede Breakfast

Total Mission

22,000	22,000
1,400	1,400
2,939	3,000
1,059	1,000
27,398	27,400

Worship

9:00 Praise Team - Music

11:00 Praise Team - Music

Choir

Guest Speakers (Pastor Relief)

Maintenance - Organ & Piano

Maintenance - Sound & Mikes

Worship Supplies

Total Worship

115	200
157	200
152	200
200	250
220	300
80	500
1,239	1,500
2,164	3,150

Youth

Affirmation of Baptism
 Discipleship and Education
 Youth Activities
 Youth Outreach
Total Youth

25	100
216	500
405	2,400
311	750
957	3,750

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

390,834	380,291
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RECEIPTS LESS EXPENDITURES

38,291	2
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NOTES TO BUDGET

1. Refugee Mission funding is fully subscribed based on current obligations. Therefore no additional giving is forecast and no expenditures are included in this budget because funding will occur from segregated amounts carried forward on the Balance Sheet.
2. Total Revenues in 2016 were \$403,000 when adjusted for Refugee Mission giving from other SWV Conference churches. This is 8.6% less than in 2015. This compares with the 9.45% reduction in Budgeted Giving for the same period.
3. Giving of \$1,000 to the Mustard Seed is planned and will be funded from the Men's Breakfast Fund on the Balance Sheet.
4. Technology requires system upgrades in 2017 due to obsolescence.
5. Natural Gas budget includes \$1,000 in anticipation of the new carbon tax.
6. No new funding is available for the Capital Ministry in 2017. Required projects will be paid from the Capital Fund of \$10,200 on the Balance Sheet.

Other Reports



January 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers 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 in the world. You will be supporting your partners in ministry – the rostered leaders 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 relationships with your neighbours through your words and deeds and the living out of your baptismal identity as God's beloved children.

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.

At Conference Gatherings in October 2016, Synod Council shared what they have been hearing across our Synod through the two Participating in Hope gatherings in 2015 and 2016, and in the Synod Convention 2016 conversations and sharing. Synod Council gathered all the comments together and have expressed what was heard in four statements. These, along with comments received at the Conference Gatherings, will be further explored at Synod Council's March 2017 retreat and you can expect to receive correspondence from Synod Council soon after the retreat to update and inform you.

The four statements:

We are hearing you are desiring connection and relationship to experience God's love among us all.

You are eager to risk and test new ways but are concerned about how, and want to ensure we keep our essentials.

You want practical help in discerning what God is up to because you sense God is at work and present in so many ways.

This sense of God's acting presence is creating renewed desire to be communities of God's hope-filled people.

Perhaps at this year's Annual General Meeting you might reflect on these four statements and our partnership together, as well as 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 (I would be pleased to receive your comments in writing to forward to Synod Council):

- 1) In what way(s) do these four statements reflect our community of faith?
- 2) If we could make three wishes for the future of our Synod what would they be?
- 3) Share about a time or situation when you or your congregation experienced God's love.
- 4) What resources do you have within your community? Share three gifts God has given you.

As you meet, you might also 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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bishop Larry Kochendorfer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

Your offering and the four areas of focus...

When you give through your weekly offering, you support the wider mission and ministry of the ELCIC.

In 2014, the **\$834,349 received by your National Church** helped support the following:

Spirited DISCIPLESHIP

- Develop and grow the Call to Spiritual Renewal.
- Speak publicly and witness for the gospel as a National Church.
- Undertake corporate leadership by encouraging energy for Spiritual Renewal for communities.



COMPASSIONATE Justice

- Challenge the causes and respond to the consequences of injustice through effective partnership with Canadian Lutheran World Relief.
- Continue to pursue right relationships with Indigenous Peoples.
- Continue and increase Stewardship of Creation Initiatives.
- Promote responsible resource extraction.
- Support and work for justice and peace in the Holy Land.
- Address issues of homelessness and affordable housing.



Effective PARTNERSHIPS

- Enhance the church's ability to be *In Mission for Others* internationally, in the North American Region of the LWF, in Canada and through partnerships.



HEALTHY Church

- Articulating a common vision for the church.
- Develop and promote a culture of mutual trust and accountability.
- Improve the financial health of the church.
- Improve communications concerning the National Church.



Worship for a Congregational Annual Meeting

OPENING

ACKNOWLEDGE: We begin by acknowledging that we gather on Treaty _____ Territory that is the traditional territory of the _____ (Indigenous People) who have called it home for thousands of years.

READ: 1 Timothy 6:18–19

SING: Evangelical Lutheran Worship #692
We Are An Offering

LEADER:

The year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada lifts up the theme adopted by The Lutheran World Federation, *Liberated by God's Grace*. This theme "tells us of the gracious love of God, through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, opens up opportunities for us as faithful Christians to reach out as healers and as people able to reconcile to a world torn apart by strife and inequality."¹

As we begin our Annual General Meeting, let us pray together using the response, *Liberated by God's Grace*, to remind ourselves of the grace, love, and care for all of creation that we

are called to together and our responsibility to be *In Mission for Others*.

PRAY:

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for this time to come together as a congregation, as a community, as friends and family.

Liberated by God's Grace

Creator God, you have equipped our church with a rich variety of gifts. Help us to be mindful of the needs of our neighbours, near and far, and remind us of our call to be *In Mission for Others*.
Liberated by God's Grace.

We pray for guidance as we consider those matters before us today and ask that you would show us how to conduct our work with a spirit of joy and enthusiasm. Help us to encourage one another and come together to serve you with gladness.
Liberated by God's Grace.

All this we pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

¹ <http://www.lwfassembly.org/node/15>

CLOSING

SING: Evangelical Lutheran Worship #641
All Are Welcome

PRAY:

We give thanks to you, gracious God, for this gift you have given us to be able to come together as a congregation, as a community, as friends and family.

Strengthen and sustain those called to be leaders in our church. We include in our prayers, our National Bishop

Susan Johnson, our Synod Bishop _____, our congregation's rostered leader(s) _____, our congregation's staff, and all those called to be council members, committee members, Sunday School leaders, worship leaders, (insert other leaders in your congregation). Empower your servants in their calling; help them to hear your call to be *In Mission for Others* and to serve with grace and gratitude.

Send us forth to be a blessing to others.
Liberated by God's Grace!

Amen.



Live Simply

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS FOR THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

Devotions by Trina Gallop Blank, © 2016 BLOC.

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