

St. Matthew's Lutheran  
Church

**Christ's  
Church**  
*better together*

2019

Council & Ministry  
Reports

## 2019 Church Council Report



The council meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. The meeting agenda and minutes are posted on the bulletin board and updated every month. We also give a summary of what is discussed during the announcements on the Sundays following our meeting. The council has continued using "*Called by God to Serve*" for our monthly devotionals, in hope of guiding us through our meetings in the manner that God is calling us to.

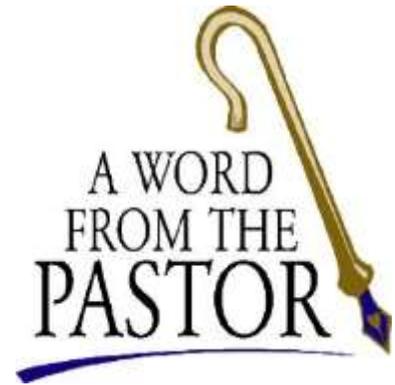
Below are a few other the things we have accomplished this year:

- Completed updates to the church Constitution and submitted it to the Rocky Mountain Synod for approval prior to congregational approval
- Thanked our continuing council members Harlan Bengtson, Marvin May, Leandra Ludlam, Erich Thaemert, Tracy Dewey, Frank Cordova, Amanda Ventura.
- Created the 2020 Budget for congregational approval
- Created and reviewed various policy including: Basement Usage Policy, Key Holders Policy, Building usage policies, Endowment By-Laws, etc. (These policies are located in the Office if you have any questions or ask a Council member)
- Continued to update the Church Records
- Hosted several Hospitality Hours

Praise be to God,  
Samantha Johnson  
Council President

## Pastor's Report 2019

- ❖ The following Pastoral Duties have been performed this year:
  - † One Baptism
  - † One First Communion
  - † Six New Members
  - † Two Memorial Services
- ❖ Prepare for and preach most Sundays.
- ❖ Continued One on One training for preaching with lay leaders.
- ❖ Prepared for and attended various ministry meetings as available, Sit on Council, Redevelopment Team and task force meetings.
- ❖ Called special meetings to prepare and provide necessary information for items such as endowment bylaws, gift policy, constitution update, etc.
- ❖ Held Leadership Training Retreat in June
- ❖ Special events such as Blessing of the Animals, Easter Vigil, VBS, and Taylorsville Dayzz Parade that are part of the life of the congregation.
- ❖ As part of continuing education, attended a three-day training at California Lutheran University in August – “Essential Skills for Youth Workers”
- ❖ Teach Adult Forums on Sunday mornings.
- ❖ Provided counsel and pastoral care to families and individuals during times of crisis, doubt or places along one's journey of discipleship.
- ❖ Attend our Utah Conference meetings as scheduled. As Dean, I attend monthly Zoom meetings with the Bishop and other deans in the synod. My other duties include organizing conference meetings, work with the bishop on conference items such as exit interviews or meeting with leadership in other congregations.
- ❖ As part of building synodical relationships, I am part of the Rocky Mountain Synod's Congregational Ministry Board. We are reviewing, evaluating congregational ministries and leadership, and other issues that congregations/pastors and/or deacons and lay leadership experience.



- ❖ As part of building church wide relationships, I served as a Convocator for California Lutheran University and sit on the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary Advisory Board. Most of my responsibilities are to inform people about the opportunities of higher education in a Lutheran institution, be a source that keeps these two institutions anchored in the faith and encourage the idea of vocation as a calling. I was elected recording secretary for the PLTS Advisory Board.
- ❖ As a Redeveloper, I submitted regular reports to our Director of Evangelical Mission, Bishop Gonia, and the church wide offices for Congregational Ministry.
- ❖ Attend the Coalition of Religious Communities and their special events to promote awareness of poverty, especially among children, in the State of Utah. On occasion we have met with state legislators, city council members and the media. I serve on the Board of Directors of the Crossroads Urban Center which is part of CORC.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Christine



The six-member team of Caring Ministers continue to bring the gospel and communion to our homebound folks. They also visit people who do not have a “church home” but need ministering to the spirit as they face the end of life. Our Caring Ministers faithfully serve in this capacity each month, rotating visits to give the care receivers a chance to see the wider church community. Caring Ministers have received special training to serve in this ministry and also continue training with quarterly meetings, one on one’s with the pastor and special speaker/training events. The team is also responsible for the Prayer request forms to insure an accurate and updated Prayer List for the congregation. When the pastor is out of town, a Caring Minister is assigned to field all urgent and emergency pastoral needs calls and refer to the on-call pastor if needed.

Submitted by,  
Pastor Christine



## Endowment Ministry Report



**The Endowment Fund**

This past year two new members were elected to be part of this ministry team. Alex Hilse and Kathy Bengtson join Elizabeth Hawke as the overseers of the endowment. We have been reviewing the documents and learning about our responsibilities. Before the end of the year, we are planning to make another distribution from the endowment to one of our identified charitable organizations.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Hawke



## 2019 Facilities and Property Report

The Facilities and Property Ministry is a group of church members who work to keep the building and grounds of St. Matthew's safe and comfortable for all who use the facilities. We perform maintenance and minor repairs, grounds maintenance and special projects to improve the building and grounds. This ministry has monthly meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month. We have had a busy year in 2019 and here are some of the things we have done to help improve St. Matthew's.

- Established a ministry purpose statement.  
**“As stewards of creation, the purpose of this ministry is the maintenance, upkeep and repair of church property including; but not limited to: the buildings, grounds, office equipment, and maintenance of equipment to provide a safe and comfortable environment for all who share these resources.”**
- Gained a new team member. The team is now Erich Thaemert, Frank Cordova and Rich Hadley.
- Completed the switch of the old pews to new chairs. We sold 100 of the wood pews to Murray Baptist Church and the rest to individuals. We also worked with the Spanish church that uses our building to get the new chairs in. The money has gone to the facilities and property budget.
- Cleaned and purged the basement.
- Created a basement use policy.
- Continued grounds and building maintenance. I.e.: mowing, watering, trimming and cleaning the building and property.
- Worked with the Stewardship Ministry to plan the 2020 Stewardship initiative of xeriscaping the church property.
- Had our annual Fall Cleanup Day to prepare for the winter season.

We faithfully look forward to completing the Xeriscaping project for the stewardship initiative in 2020 and would like to explore painting the inside of the building.

Faithfully submitted,

Erich Thaemert

November 17, 2019



## 2019 Faith Formation Annual Report

*“Our purpose is to equip disciples by providing opportunities for learning, practicing, and living our Christian faith.”*

### Achievements:

Faith Formation provided classes for ages 3-17 using the Spark curriculum; a 3-year lectionary-based study and also presented Spark bibles to the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Pastor Christine led the Adult forum. This fall the 6<sup>th</sup> graders will transition to the youth group and teacher assignment will be based upon volunteers from the congregation on a week to week schedule; allowing the opportunity for more people to be involved in Faith Formation. If interested, please see Alex Hilse. The church year started by providing Advent calendars and performing a Children’s Christmas program which was written and directed by Morgan Ballard. Christmas caroling to our homebound members was a rewarding activity to be continued each year. Faith Formation hosted fellowship on Epiphany Sunday with different ethnic foods, including a Kings cake and take home prizes explaining the meaning of Epiphany. A book fair was held in the spring and a Resource Center created in the library, so feel free to check out a book. The children decorated bags for the Easter Vigil. Faith Formation hosted fellowship in June with a summer kickoff BBQ and decorated a float for Taylorsville Days promoting VBS. The 3-day parking lot fundraiser generated \$900 for the ministry. VBS was held in July with skits, lessons, crafts, music, games and food for all. Rally Sunday 2019 was kicked off by working with the Outreach Ministry to complete a service project to help prep bags for people experiencing homelessness. Educational worship toolboxes were created to assist children during worship and will replace the existing bags. The toys in the ‘Prayground’ area for preschool children will be sanitized and monitored regularly to ensure a clean space for our children. A Child and Youth Protection Policies and Procedures guide was created for those that work with children in our congregation. Faith Formation hosted fellowship on Rally Sunday and also on October 20th.

**Youth:** Five of our youth attended the Utah Conference Youth Gathering in March. An Instagram account was approved to post youth pictures and activities. Various youth activities were offered throughout the summer, including Alex and Lisa (Zion’s) hosting Summer Sandwiches (with saints and sinners). The youth will be leading worship periodically throughout the year.

**Training:** In August 2019, Pastor Christine, Alex and Samantha attended “Essential Skills Training” at Cal Lutheran for Youth leaders, which met the 2019 Stewardship goal.

### Goals:

Faith Formation goals include create a youth space within the church; organize/inventory material in the basement, enhance the Resource Center, continue to provide opportunities within Faith Formation to increase involvement and grow our Christian faith.

Faith Formation continues to support our fellow ministries as we work together in Christ – “God’s Work - Our Hands”.

Respectfully submitted – Pam Lawrence

## Hospitality and Evangelism Ministry



Highlights of the past year for this ministry:

- We have changed our name from Fellowship Ministry to Hospitality and Evangelism Ministry
- Initiated reminder card and resource person for Sunday hospitality hour to remind individuals and groups when they are hosting hospitality hour and also the contact from the hospitality group if there are questions
- Purchased welcoming flags and have a weekly sign-up sheet to make certain someone puts the flags out each week
- Cleaned kitchen and disposed of old unused items
- Added a new member to our ministry
- Created a hospitality ministry Purpose Statement as follows:

*Hospitality Ministry provides a safe, welcoming place for all to experience the Grace of God's Table*

- Provided lunch for two funerals
- Hosted Thanksgiving dinner and Easter breakfast
- Planning to organize the Christmas Program dinner
- Beginning study of "The Invitational Christian", by Dave Daubert

Goals for the coming year:

- To form a Task Force to begin the process of moving St. Matthew's Lutheran Church toward becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation
- Coordinate the Thanksgiving meal, Easter meal and the hospitality period after the children's program

Submitted by,

Harlan Bengtson



## Outreach Ministry 2019 Annual Report

### January

- Holiday Donation Drive (November-January): Clothing items and “to go” food packages were donated to the VOA Teen Outreach Program and Crossroads Urban Center.

### February

- Souper Bowl of Caring - Over 41 pounds of food was donated to the Crossroads Urban Center and \$201 was donated to ELCA World Hunger.

### March

- Family Promise Dinner: St. Matthew’s congregation members served dinner to families experiencing homelessness who were living in the temporary shelter at St. Stephen’s.

### April/May

- ELCA World Hunger “chicks”: \$209 was raised for ELCA World Hunger.

### June

- Taylorsville Days Parade – Over 150 water bottles with St. Matthew’s Flyers were handed out during the parade.
- Summer Food Drive – 52 pounds of food donated to the Crossroads Urban Center.

### July

- Summer Food drive – 461 pounds of food donated to the Crossroads Urban Center.

### September

- ELCA Day of Service: Members of St. Matthew’s prepared care packages for people experiencing homelessness.
- “Piggy Bank” donation of \$827.67 made to ELCA World Hunger.

**October**

- Diaper and Formula Drive was a success with over 2,000 diapers collected and 5,460 oz. of formula – donations were taken to the Urban Crossroads Center in conjunction with the Sabbath to end Childhood Homelessness.

**November**

- Winter warm clothing drive has begun and will conclude at the end of February 2020.

**December**

- Dream Academy Event: St. Matthew's will provide clothing and gifts for half of the children as well as Christmas cookies for decorating.

Submitted by,

Jenny Cox

## REDEVELOPMENT REPORT 2019



Over the last few years we developed the Mission statement, Core Values and assisted various ministries and the council in living out our mission statement. We focused all of our discernment through prayer, study and conversation with others. Some of the areas we participated in were:

- Assist Council leadership with funding requests to the ELCA
- Prepared annual reports to the congregation
- Biblical Study of Nehemiah, Gospel of Mark and the Book of Revelation.
- Assisted with and attended workshops for Stewardship for All Seasons
- Attended meetings of various ministry teams to continue discernment, clarify objectives and further discern to better understand how we can live out our mission statement
- Served as a filter for ideas, concerns and questions
- We continued our commitment to meet weekly

In July, the Redevelopment team completed its work for the congregation. As we move out of redevelopment into sustainability, we are grateful to the congregation for their support during this time of renewal.

Faithfully Submitted,  
Pastor Christine

## Stewardship Ministry 2019

The Stewardship Ministry continued to follow the guidelines of Stewardship for All Seasons. The ministry met the third Tuesday of each month. Evaluations were submitted to all the other ministries to seek out feedback on efficacy of the ministry, were the initiatives for 2018 appropriate, and how are they effective. The feedback was positive and there were many great suggestions that were used in deciding on the 2019 initiative. Stewardship ministry sought out what the church council felt were key priorities for the church. One key priority that stood out was recruitment and visitor retention. The ministry discussed how we could incorporate this into this year's initiative. It was decided that instead of doing multiple initiatives, we would focus on one that would aid in recruitment and visitor retention. The decision was to focus on God's Creation and Stewardship appealed for \$10,000 to support the Facilities ministry and xeroscaping the property as well as continue to landscape around the labyrinth.

Submitted by,

Harmony Thaemert



## *Worship and Music Ministry 2019 Report*

The team consists of a variety of people whose responsibilities interconnect with one another to make worship happen. The team usually meets monthly to prepare worship for the subsequent month or season.

We have helped other ministries with music such as the Advent Fellowship, Epiphany, Vacation Bible School, and Outreach with their emphasis on the Homeless Children of Utah.

Worship and Music Ministry has prepared the services for:

- ξ Sunday morning services.
- ξ Christmas Eve 2018 Service
- ξ Holy Week 2019
- ξ 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Vigil
- ξ Easter Sunday Service with Special Brass Instrumental Group

Every Sunday we continue to have special music which is either instrumental, choral, solos or a mix.

The choir continues to grow and explore different types of music. Some of our youth are singing with choir since practices are short and after church. We have new volunteers learning on how to become a cantor.

The Worship and Music Ministry has been intentional in introducing new liturgies as well as using the old familiar ones. It is our hope to engage worshipers of all ages through the liturgy, special music and hymnody.

Submitted by,

Pastor Christine

