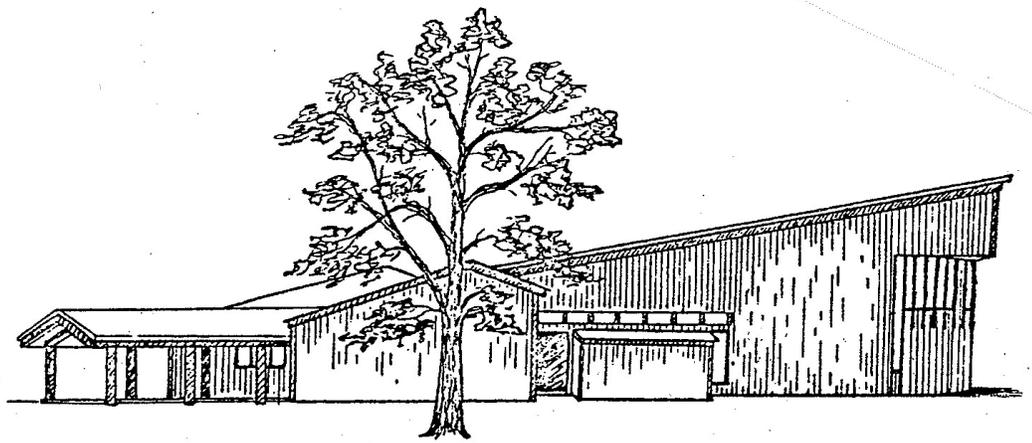


2016 Annual Report



Faith Lutheran Church
Marinette, WI

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THE PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastoral vacancy is still in effect.

OFFICIAL ACTS FOR FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH A.D. 2016

Baptisms-[1]

Nolan Titus Isaacson

Confirmations-[4]

Caitlin Kielcheski (June 12, 2016)
Brandon Stachewicz (June 12, 2016)
Felicity King (December 11, 2016)
Travis Wilch (December 11, 2016)

Weddings-[1]

none

Funerals-[0]

None
(Funeral held at Pilgrim LCMS in Green Bay for Mel Luetkens)

Transfers In from Other LCMS Congregations-[4]

Duane & Jane Bucholtz
Dennis & Chris Froehlich

Received by Affirmation of Faith-[5]

Yvonne Banach
Wesley & Violet Borchert
Aaron & Dawn Mullins

Transfers Out to Other LCMS Congregations-[3]

Kyle Meyers
Pastor James & Esther Wuebben

Released to Other Congregations-[2]

Marjorie Schmitt
Cindy Nickerson

Released because of Self-Exclusion-[19]

Myriah Beaudou
James & Connie Doemel
Heather, Cameron, Kirsten Gauthier
Carl, Tammy, Felicia, Maycee Granquist
Dustin Kurath
Charles, Heather, Audrey, Olivia, Caleb Lewis
Irene Mayou
Jared Meyers
Jackie Schmitt

BOARD OF ELDERS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

2016 started out in what the Elders thought would be a year of change. Yes, we had been vacant since September but our Call Committee had been and was operating as planned. Our new Pastor would be here shortly. Then came the returned call. We needed to continue looking. A second call was sent and returned, then a third and finally a fourth. At the end of 2016 we were back where we had started forming a new Call Committee and establishing a Call list. It was then we looked back and realized we had been vacant for fifteen months and were no farther along, except for experience, than when we started. What a feeling. Then we looked back what we had accomplished during the year.

Pam O'Brien retired in December leaving us to fill the secretary position. With the search underway, Pam and Kelly volunteered to fill in so we could keep the office open and get the necessary work done. An individual was hired and trained for the position but after a few weeks it was determined it was not working out and we again looked for someone. We did find an individual living in Oconto who was excellent for the job. She was employed for a couple of months when she was offered a job close to home requiring much less driving. At this time Kelly Coan volunteered to take the position, which we gratefully accepted.

Pastor Haag is a member of our congregation and had been filling in as guest pastor on Sundays. In late fall, a decision was made, with his consensus, that we would appoint him as Vacancy Pastor. Under this title he would assume some office hours and make visits to our home bound and hospitalized members in addition to conducting the Sunday morning services. This arrangement appears to be working well. A good portion of the administrative duties have been taken over by members of Council and Administrative Secretary, Kelly Coan.

The Elders with help from Pastor Haag, conducted the Lenten and Advent Wednesday services last year and have made plans to continue doing so in 2017. We will continue working with Pastor Haag until such time we installed a new pastor. At this time, we will make our decisions in consensus with his wishes and ideas.

We completed and approved a new Marriage Policy for Faith which agrees with the position that the LCMS takes on same sex marriages. The policy also provides guidelines for members/non-member marriages. This policy will eliminate problems before questions are raised.

In March the Board thought that the "New Member" policy which was being worked on should be tabled until we have a called pastor in place to provide input. The Board again sponsored the Easter Breakfast. Planning and general chairmanship was shared by Jeff Durocher and Bob Dennison with help coming from many men in the congregation. It was a great success and enjoyed by many members and friends.

In June the Board sent two of our confirmands to a confirmation retreat in Shawano. They, along with their chaperone, made a good impression and represented Faith very well.

A list of individuals who had not been attending worship or receiving communion during the past year, was presented to the Assembly for removal by 'self-exclusion' from the church roster. The voters approved this recommendation and the individuals were subsequently removed.

At the December Voters' Assembly the congregation cast their ballots during the election for Congregation Officers and Board representatives. Dave O'Brien was elected, returning after a short period of rest. Dave replaces Scott Stacy who chose not to run. Elroy Stroming was elected to

(Elders report cont.)

continue as a Board member. During the reorganization meeting Dan Everson was elected as Board Secretary and Elroy Stroming reelected as Chairman.

If you have any problems or questions in these areas we ask that first you contact the Elder responsible to/for that group. The following Board members were appointed as liaison to the various programs and groups.

Dan Everson - Ushers	Bob Dennison - Readers
John Nygren - Greeters	Jeff Durocher - Music
Dave O'Brien - Acolytes	Elroy Stroming - Altar Guild

As these men continue to serve God, working and striving to provide a strong support ministry for Faith Lutheran, we ask that you remember them in your prayers.

In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
Elroy Stroming
Chairman Board of Elders

2016 ANNUAL REPORT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Faith Lutheran entered 2016 with a pastoral vacancy that was already four months old. The Call Committee had been working on a list of possible candidates and things were progressing as planned. Over the next several month what had begun as the idea of a short vacancy began to stretch out into months. We were very fortunate to have Pastor Haag as a member of the congregation. He stepped forward and agreed to conduct the Sunday services. Without his assistance, I do not know where we would be. There are very few pastors in this part of the state who are available to conduct services other than their own congregations. As the end of 2016 approached and after having extended a "Call" to four different individuals who all returned our 'Call', it became obvious that many members were frustrated and discouraged. Remember, it is not us, the congregation that chooses and selects our next pastor but God Himself who makes that choice.

At the December Voters Assembly a new Call Committee was appointed and they have begun their search for what they believe will be God's choice and the right fit for Faith Lutheran. I am hoping that as they complete their search we will be able to call a Voters Assembly in February to extend a Call. Let us all pray that our search will be successful and God's choice of a Shepherd will again join in leading our Faith family.

In addition to the loss of Pastor Teeple in 2016, we were also faced with the retirement of our church secretary. Following a search both within the congregation and in the surrounding area two individuals were found and hired over the next several months. Unfortunately, neither worked out. As the position stood vacant Kelly Coan volunteered to fill in until we obtain a pastor and becomes acclimated to our church routine. We also ended the school year without a Preschool Director and teacher. Cindy Nickerson's husband was transferred and she left the area. Ruth Firnett retired. We

were able to fill both of these positions prior to the beginning of the school year with, Christina Eggener as Director and Erica Molkentine as teacher.

As I look back over our present vacancy, I am grateful to all our members here at Faith and how so many of you have stepped forward to take on tasks to keep our congregation viable and sustaining. Yes! We are even growing during this time of vacancy. This is usually a time when most congregations experience a significant drop in church attendance and even significant backdoor membership loss. But if you have noticed, we see many new faces on Sunday mornings. We are pleased to welcome several new members into Faith family.

As we move forward into the New Year, I, as Chairman of the congregation and the Church Council, hope and pray that our Call will be answered and Faith Lutheran will again have a Shepherd to lead this flock in the manner and direction that demonstrates our love for Christ and our willingness to follow the commands he has given us.

Elroy A. Stroming
Chairman
Faith Lutheran Church LCMS

THE ALTAR GUILD REPORT

As we enter 2017, we need to reflect back on 2016 and give thanks to our Altar Guild members. All of our members give their time to make sure our Altar has been prepared to serve our Lord.

Our scheduling system is working great and everybody seems to be happy with it. Again Elroy and I would like to thank all who selflessly give their time to the work of the Altar Guild.

If anyone is willing to serve, or if you think you might have an interest, please contact Elroy Stroming or myself. We will answer any questions or concerns you may have, and provide you with training to help you serve the Lord!

God's Blessings,
Sandy Lesperance, Chair

BOARD OF MISSIONAL LIFE REPORT

The activities of our board this past year met with success in the ongoing projects that we've been supporting. Food Pantry, Radio Broadcast, and the Russian Ministry were a continued focus for us. We worked on reaching out to visitors and newcomers by delivering a loaf of bread. One of our goals is to work directly with the church secretary and the new Pastor so we can improve on our efforts in the coming year. We are excited about the opportunity to work with the Board of Ed on the upcoming presentation of the Creation Ministry event in April as well as our fall feast supper (date and time to be decided). Our board was saddened by the stepping down of Linda and Steve Van Den Heuvel due to health issues and look forward to their return in the future. We are excited to have Roger Burt and Jim Zill on board as new members, their insight and excitement for new mission opportunities.

Judy Stroming, Chair.

THE SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR REPORT

Thank you very much to the members of Faith who provided refreshments for coffee hour after church on Sundays during 2016. Your service is truly appreciated.

Kelly Coan, Church Secretary

Board of Education 2016 Annual Report

Acknowledgements:

The Christian education program at Faith is aided by so many people in our congregation that it hardly makes sense to mention everyone in the annual report. Please see the minutes from the June and December meetings of 2016 for those recognized for their extended commitments. The Board is grateful to all of our volunteers and to those who remember us in their prayers. May the Lord's work continue to be faithfully carried out by dedicated workers in this congregation.

Preschool (Sara Hanson): Spring/Summer 2016

Personnel reviews were conducted on teachers and director.

Ruth Firnett retirement

Graduation packets were handed out to graduating 4 year olds.

Cindy Nickerson resignation and exit interview

Director and Teacher search – Ads and interviews

Christina Eggener was hired as Director in August

Scholarship policy updated

Fall 2016 Report

Marketing and Advertising

Enrollment: 13 three-year olds and 13 four-year olds

Erika Molkentine was hired as Teacher in October

Full staffing level at Preschool attained: C. Eggener (Dir.), M. Evancheck & E. Molkentine (Tea.)

Website updates for Faith Lutheran Preschool

Facebook page for Faith Lutheran Preschool

Conducting Parent Teacher Conferences with Excellent Participation

Christmas Program with more than 140 parents/grandparents in the audience

Community Presentations by: TOAD, Marinette County Health Dept., and Marinette Fire Dept.

Sunday School (Joe Keske):

Parents, Grandparents, and Guardians,

God commands thus, in Deuteronomy 6:6-9, "Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Martin Luther also states in his small catechism that heads of the household should be teaching their children the basic Lutheran doctrine.

As much as we are able in about 36 hours per year, the Sunday School program at Faith continues to teach our young ones with the use of Bible stories, catechism and Bible verse memorization, and music. That said, we implore all of our adult members to take responsibility for the commands above and help to spread Christ's love to all our young ones. In the end, your example and teaching at home will have much greater influence on the children than our 36 hours.

Vacation Bible Saturdays (Aaron Mullins):

VBS (Vacation Bible Saturday), was held 4 times throughout 2016. Kids were treated to themes including; Moses and the Burning Bush, The Crossing of the Red Sea and 10 Commandments, Wandering in the Desert and the Promised Land, and Jesus We've Been Waiting for You. Diane Burt is the coordinator for VBS and she is helped out by congregation members who volunteer with registration, teaching, music, games, and snacks.

In 2017, three VBS events are planned with the following topics: Bad Saul, Good Paul; Who is Martin Luther?; and How We Became Lutherans

Youth Group (Kim Wright):

- In January, watched "Narnia". After, a discussion about the many ways this movie shows Christ, Christian symbols & Biblical people throughout.
- February - served Soup dinner on Ash Wednesday.
- February - met for homemade pizza & dessert night. A Lenten activity & devotion followed.
- March - Baked bread & made homemade soup for annual fundraiser. Proceeds = \$575 for 2017 Higher Things Conference.
- April - Enjoyed playing Bingo at Crestview Group Home. Pizza was enjoyed as the group talked about God given talents, how to develop them & how God wants people to use them.
- May - Highway Cleanup
- June, July & August - No meeting
- September - Met at Kim's house for a "Park-like Picnic". Everyone enjoyed games, food & social time.
- October - Highway cleanup with devotions, pizza & ice cream after.
- November - In honor of National Homemade Bread Day, the group made homemade bread for our local law enforcement. After, a creation video watched while enjoying a snack.
- December - Worship, Lighting of the Tree of Lights, & Christmas Party with games, food & fun!

The big event for 2017 is the Higher Things Conference in Valparaiso, IN. The dates are July 25-28, and the theme is "Here I Stand".

Library (Joe Keske):

Work continues in the library. A section will be added for maps. Donations are constantly being evaluated for their degree of conformity to the educational guidelines/requirements as outlined in the Library Policy. The resources are being catalogued and a new card system is slowly being added, to help track down the items that have stayed away for too long. We understand that the library is often being occupied by Sunday School and Confirmation classes, but please try to use this facility for your studies at home.

Several resources have been added that pertain to Creation science. Check these out to help with the attacks posed by our evolution-loving culture.

Creation Ministries International (Joe Keske):

On Sunday, April 3rd, 2016, Dr. Rob Carter from Creation Ministries International was our guest and gave a presentation entitled, "The Alternative: Creation's Competitive Edge". Approximately 130 people were in attendance at the Marinette High School Auditorium, with seven different area congregations represented. Watch for upcoming information on other creation-focused and apologetic activities.

Other Updates (Joe Keske):

For the 2016-17 year, the Board of Education had a significantly reduced budget request when compared to the 2015-16 year. The reduction was due to the following items: Increased Preschool Enrollment, Decreased Sunday School Enrollment, Thrivent Action Team Funds, and no Creation Ministries International (CMI) visit.

In 2017, the Board is looking at recognizing January as a special month for Lutherans. We celebrate the Sanctity of Human Life as well as remember our Lutheran Schools. We also look forward, recognizing that this year marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 theses, and the Reformation.

The Board of Education has been discussing other media outlets that help Christians see current events through a less-secular perspective. We will continue to look for these types of resources so that you might be comforted and encouraged by Christians sharing their faith today. Resources that we have reviewed and recommend include:

Issues, Etc. (www.issuesetc.org)

WORLD magazine (www.wng.org)

Christian Research Institute (www.equip.org)

In all these activities, we thank God for his Grace, and continue to ask Him for guidance and blessing.

Faith LCMS Board of Education

2016 ANNUAL PROPERTY BOARD REPORT

The purpose of the Board of Property is to glorify God by coordinating maintenance and repair of all physical assets, including electronically-stored data belonging to the church.

The objectives of the Board of Property are to 1) facilitate the safe use of all church property 2) facilitate the accessibility of the church and its property to authorized individuals and 3) enhance the educational and worship experiences of all members and quests by providing tidy and functioning facilities.

This was a busy year for the members of the property board. A lot of repairs, general maintenance issues, lawn cutting, snow removal etc. were taken care of this year. Some capital improvements have also been addressed and completed.

Some of the recent projects completed are... a new furnace installed for fellowship hall/classrooms, installed hallway carpet and installed double doors between nursery and preschool classroom etc.

Most recently the members of the property board got our church ready for the Christmas season by installing the outside nativity sets and decorating the interior of the church with wreaths and trees etc.

Some projects approved and planned for 2017 are 1) upgrade sanctuary lighting with LED lights & new dimmer switches-might be completed prior this printing 2) install new digital yard sign, and 3) sealcoat and re-stripe parking lot.

I want to thank the members of the property board for all their hard work and dedication in 2016 and the congregation for your support, financial contributions and help in keeping our church in good repair and appearance. A SPECIAL thanks goes to Traci Meyers for diligently keeping the inside of our church clean and looking great. Also appreciated are church members who have stepped up and helped with lawn cutting etc.. The volunteer help saves our congregation a lot of money during the year.

Members of the property board are: Kelly Coan, Jim & Marla Schutt, Roy Gill, Bob Charlesworth, Mark Okrasinski, Mark Stroming, Karl Baumann Jr., David Kielcheski and myself.

We look forward to serving the congregation in 2017. If anyone has any concerns or suggestions regarding our church building and grounds feel free to contact me.

In Christ Service & yours, Dan Everson-Chairman Board of Property

STEWARDSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

The following three points from our Constitution are the guidelines our board uses to reach our objectives:

1. The Great Commission, 2. Instructing Children and Adults according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran church, 3. Fostering Christian Fellowship and Charity (love).

1. **Making Disciples:** The summer of 2016 our board was able to offer Camperships to four youth, ranging in age from kindergarten to high school, totaling \$795.00. We had a three week stewardship emphasis in October, culminating with our Time and Talent Sunday. The Nominating Committee was able to fill most of the vacancies for the 2017 boards and officer positions. There is still an opening for the Vice President position. Thank you to all who have volunteered and/or will be volunteering their time.
.
2. **Instructing Children and Adults:** We published Stewardship articles in our church newsletter in order to give you a better idea as to what stewardship entails, including finances. You can find the church newsletter (along with other info) on our website: faithmarinette.org. Our monthly Stewardship newsletter, "Steward Builders" was one of many resources we used in the series "12 Months of Congregational Stewardship".
3. **Fostering Christian Fellowship and Charity:** Our board sponsored a Lenten supper in March and recognized graduates in May. We welcomed and recognized several new members in 2016 with gifts and cakes during fellowship.
We purchased mite boxes and distributed them to the Sunday school children, explaining how even small amounts of change can make a difference.

Thank you to my fellow board members for all their work this past year: Karen Everson, Maggie Nygren, Diane Stachewicz, Connie Dewitt and Felicity King.

Debi Buetow
Stewardship Chairperson

FAITH LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION (LWML) ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Officers for 2016: Pam O'Brien, President; Betsy Gill, Vice President/Christian Growth; Carol Tillberg, Secretary; Marla Schutt, Treasurer. These ladies will also serve as officers in 2017. We had eight active participants during the year.

In 2016, our group met for five regular meetings. We began each of our meetings with Bible study or a Christian Growth devotion.

We continue to be grateful to the Faith family for working together on mission projects. With your assistance, 191 school kits and 49 quilts were shipped to Lutheran World Relief. New shipping methods

allow us to track the quilts and school kits and learn their final destinations. The quilts went to Mali (in West Africa), Haiti, and Tanzania. The school kits went to Mali and The Honduras. Thank you for collecting items for and sewing tote bags for school kits, and sewing quilt tops. We would love help putting quilts together. After a quilt top is complete, it is layered with batting and a flat sheet. All three layers are tied together with heavy-duty thread or string. We currently have enough materials to assemble more than 100 quilts.

Care packages were sent to our college students and military personnel. The cookies, snacks and other items you donated filled each box to the brim. Other ministry projects we supported in 2016 included the Lutheran Hour, Concordia Seminary, Orphan Grain Train, Lutheran Braille Workers, and Lutherans for Life. LWML gave each confirmand a devotional book "Blessings and Prayers for Confirmation."

Mites amounting to \$394.60 were collected and sent to the North Wisconsin District for LWML mission grants. A list of the current mission grants is on the entrance bulletin board and we try to update it whenever a mission project is paid. Small MITE boxes are available on the LWML table if you'd like to collect spare change for the Mite projects. The large MITE offering box is displayed regularly and you may bring your spare change at any time.

In January, we hosted a Ladies Cabin Fever Potluck Salad Luncheon. On Saturday, April 9th, our group hosted the Zone 14 Spring Rally with 54 persons in attendance. Gifts of the Heart were infant boys clothing, diapers and baby wipes for Bay Area Pregnancy Services (BAPS).

LWML Sunday was celebrated October 23rd. Several ladies served as greeters, ushers, and lay reader. Towels, quilts, and fair trade coffee were also displayed and offered for sale on LWML Sunday.

We invite you to become actively involved in our mission projects, join us for Bible studies, attend meetings to share your ideas for mission outreach, and to Serve the Lord with Gladness!

Submitted by Pam O'Brien

THE CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Baptized Members</u>	<u>Confirmed Members</u>	<u>Annual Attendance</u>	<u>Average Attendance Per Sunday</u>	<u>Average Communion Per Sunday</u>
1975	136	94	4030	66	
1976	167	112	5677	71	
1977	209	139	6896	91	
1978	230	152	7600	99	
1979	264	173	8918	117	
1980	264	173	7860	106	
1981	300	207	9455	126	
1982	288	192	9302	101	
1983	273	201	7860	162	
1984	312	233	8280	166	
1985	315	229	7831	142	
1986	331	234	7046	138	
1987	323	214	6873	133	
1988	329	218	7197	138	
1989	293	183	5984	115	
1990	299	185	5874	99	
1991	299	189	5363	103	69
1992	304	210	5159	99	73
1993	300	230	5063	97	70
1994	281	220	5017	96	71
1995	281	209	5102	98	76
1996	296	218	5736	108	70
1997	315	229	6432	108	75
1998	322	233	6499	110	76
1999	341	257	6775	116	83
2000	239	182	6979	125	87
2001	247	198	6761	112	84
2002	252	205	5635	108	79
2003	258	209	5332	103	81
2004	257	199	5756	111	80
2005	256	204	6148	119	83
2006	267	210	6019	116	82
2007	268	215	6111	118	74
2008	265	221	6531	126	76
2009	265	206	5436	86	58
2010	277	214	5408	104	69
2011	271	216	6890	133	90
2012	279	217	7221	139	97
2013	263	220	5858	113	84
2014	270	228	5598	108	76
2015	268	230	5332	103	82
2016	180	158	5171	103	55

Faith Lutheran Church

Financial Report

YTD 12/31/2016

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$183,307	\$208,648
Expenses:		
Missions	19,987	17,600
Worship	4,895	7,400
Stewardship	805	1,900
Education	9,898	12,754
Ministry	19,124	105,989
Administration	23,075	30,505
Property	17,071	27,500
Mortgage	33,912	5,000
Total Expenses	\$128,768	\$208,648
Cash:		
Checking	\$63,893	
Savings	\$52,284	
Total Cash	\$116,177	
Debt	\$0	

THE NURSERY ROLL

Our Nursery Roll consists of baptized children of Faith members and non-members from birth until age three.

Nolan Titus Isaacson
Born: March 17, 2016
Baptized: May 15, 2016

Avery Mae Guns
Born: June 14, 2015
Baptized: November 29, 2015

Payton Jean Chaltry
Born: October 9, 2014
Baptized: June 7, 2015

Nora Jane Sebero (daughter of Jesse & Kylie Sebero)
Born: September 24, 2014
Baptized: October 5, 2014

Cora Grace Schutt (daughter of David & Cindy Schutt)
Born: September 3, 2014
Baptized: September 18, 2014