



Spanaway Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

November 19th, 2017

Our Mission

To live as God's people spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Our Vision

We tell the story of God's grace, calling people to live in faith through God's love.

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Approval of Budget:

Treasurer's Report with Q&A

Old Business:

- 20/20 Plan (Clear Communications/Every Member Engagement/Mortgage Reduction)
- Committee Reorganization

New Business:

- Homeless at our door, in our community
- Pastoral Housing Allowance
- Revised Bylaws
- More, as needed

Closing Prayer: Pastor Schier-Hanson

Next Council Meetings: 6:00 pm, November 28, 2017; 6:00 pm, December 26, 2017.

Next Annual Meeting of SLC Congregation: November 18, 2018

Adjournment: We give thanks to God, and go out to live as God's people,
sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

2016 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2016

We assemble in God's name.

Meeting was called to order by congregational president Mike Doyle
Prayer by the Pastor

Minutes: M/s/c November 22, 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes

John Briehl "Oaks of Righteousness" Award: Congratulations and thank you to Glen Ruediger and Jeris Ockfen

Council Members: Council Members were elected: Rob DeZarn, Richard Montoya and Nancy Vignec

Nominating Committee elected: Mike Doyle and Mary Herem

Lay Delegates to the 2017 Synod Convention On June 16 and 17 in Tacoma at PLU are Ben and Ellen McCracken Alternate Louise Luberts

General reports: were discussed

2017 Budget: M/s/c to accept the budget as printed.

Old Business: 20/20 plan update

Mortgage Reduction: \$34,00 has been pledged from 30 households

Every Member Involvement: Integrating new members into the life of the congregation Activities that have been started include Table Talk

Clear Communication: How do we get information out to committees and congregation. Policies need to be communicated to all members.

New Business:

Alcohol at SLC: Council desires a wide variety of input. Debate is open.

Task Force: Committee system has not been working. A task force including Chuck Nelson and Sharon Dillinger has been formed to research how other churches handle this. Everything must focus on SLC's mission statement.

Closing prayer

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Louise Luberts

We give thanks to God

We go out- *to live as God's people, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.*

2017 Pastor's Report

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ **Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

Over the last few decades the Church of all stripes and denominations has adopted the methods of successful corporations by emphasizing creating and implementing vision and mission statements. I believe congregations and leaders thought that defining an identifiable mission and vision for their congregations would somehow combat the decline both congregations and church bodies they were witnessing. And so, in many places church councils and whole congregations engaged in the task of identifying their own unique vision and mission. In many places this exercise exposed a lack of both vision and mission, and served to energize congregations to become more vigilant and intentional in their ministry. One of the more popular expressions of the emphasis on mission and vision involved initiatives to demonstrate love for our neighbor. As a result many successful outreach programs emerged to feed the hungry, assist the homeless, and assist our neighbor in many other meaningful ways. Most people take for granted that congregations faithful to the call of Jesus Christ will participate in such ministries. I must admit, I willingly participant in many efforts of this type, thinking that if the church demonstrated God's love, things would begin to turn around. But I could never shake the sense that something was amiss.

During my sabbatical I had ample time to reflect on ministry in the Church and also to study the process of forming disciples at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church in Seattle, my sabbatical study project. This reflection and observation reminded me that the church has always and ever had a mission statement – "*Go make disciples*" and a vision statement – "*Living under the Lordship of Christ the Church will bear witness to the merciful Kingdom of God made known in Jesus.*" It doesn't get much simpler than that. And yet, somehow amid all the programs and options presented to congregations over the past half century, this clear mission and vision fell out of favor and focus.

Twenty-five years ago Phinney Ridge recognized that an increasing number of adults with little or no Christian background were coming to their church. The pastors and congregational leaders at Phinney Ridge also recognized that joining the Church meant more than simply affiliating oneself with a worshipping community; it means being called into new life in Christ by serving God and neighbor. Realizing that their traditional process for reception of new members provided scant information, guidance or training to live a life of Christian discipleship, Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church reclaimed the ancient process of forming new disciples (the catechumenate) from the first three centuries of Christianity. *The Way* – their name for the process – engages those interested in life in the Church in a process of discovering God's calling in Holy Scripture, intentional Christian fellowship and prayer, and ordering our lives around a new center. It's not complicated, but it is compelling.

The process presents those seeking to know more about faith and meaning in Christ with a serious but unintimidating way of exploring the path of faith revealed in Scripture under the guidance of the Holy Spirit while being held the gentle embrace and acceptance of a community of forgiveness and grace. This happens at the dinner table, during worship, in small group study of Sunday's readings, and between inquirer and mentor. If and when any in the group decide to be baptized or affirm their participation in the Body of Christ they enroll in a period of preparation during Sunday worship.

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During 2017 we engaged in many expressions of faithfulness: Offering **Bible Study** no fewer than 3 times a week, feeding the hungry through the **Spanaway Food Bank** and **Food for Families**; Nurturing members and visitors through intentional fellowship in our **Table Talk** program and **First Friday Fellowship**; reaching out to children through **BASE**, the **Spanaway Lutheran Preschool**, the **Bike Safety Fair** and **Vacation Bible School**; expressing solidarity with our community through **The Health Fiesta** and **The SLC Community Garden**. All of these things are wonderful ministries. They require a great deal of commitment of time and effort. It struck me on sabbatical that if we channeled more of our congregation's energy into creating new disciples guided by Jesus' words, energized by the Holy Spirit and excited about sharing in the work of the Kingdom, all of our endeavors and ministries would benefit.

In 2018 we will begin our journey together toward a more meaningful, nurturing and community building congregation as we introduce **The Way** – the Catechumenate process – to the congregation, and hopefully implement it fully in the fall. During this time opportunities to engage in **Lectio Divina** – the Scripture reflection process used in **The Way**. Remember, wherever we may find ourselves in life, each one of us has a next step in their walk of faith and embrace of grace. I hope many of us will hear the call to reflect on God's Word, and so grow in grace together, and prepare ourselves to become a disciple making congregation.

We find ourselves in the 500th year of the Reformation. During the first Reformation Martin Luther rediscovered the God of grace and mercy made known in Jesus. Perhaps we can begin this 500 years by rediscovering our mission to help all nations discover, perhaps for the first time, that same life giving grace and mercy. I hope many of you will consider taking active roles in this new ministry that will be vital to our future together as people who "Go ...and make disciple of all nations."

Pastor John Schier-Hanson

2014-15 Pastoral Acts Reports

Home Visits: 79

Hospital Visits: 47

Teaching Hours: 121

Baptisms: 7

Anthony Deshawn Johnson	05-21-2017	Raymond Christopher Slater	05-21-2017
Jena Joann Slater (adult)	05-21-2017	Taylor Mae Satron Pedersen	09-10-2017
Cyrus Lee Slater	05-21-2017	Cason Christopher Aden	10-01-2017
Ava Nicole Slater	05-21-2017		

Members Received by Transfer or Affirmation of Faith:

Edward Jackson	01-08-2017	Faye Keller	05-21-2017
Lori Lynn Jackson	01-08-2017	Becky Erickson	05-21-2017
Sara Jackson	01-08-2017	Leroy Hagel	05-21-2017
Katherine (Kit) Modahl	01-08-2017	Caroline Hagel	05-21-2017
Evan Slater	05-21-2017	Mitch Murray	05-21-2017
Jenna Joann Slater	05-21-2017	Cheryl Murray	05-21-2017
Cyrus Lee Slater	05-21-2017	Ed Lustig	05-21-2017
Ava Nicole Slater	05-21-2017	Brenda Lustig	05-21-2017
Raymond Christopher Slater	05-21-2017	Alisha Johnson	05-21-2017
Randy Dougherty	05-21-2017	Kathleen Keeton	05-21-2017
Steven Blacksten	05-21-2017		

Affirmation of Baptism:

Emily Alexandra DeZarn	06-04-2017
Noah Melton DeZarn	06-04-2017
Annaliese Jean McAuliffe	06-04-2017

Weddings:

Funerals and Memorial Services:

Date of:

Members

Death

Service

Barbara Christine Shadle	November 18, 2016	November 29, 2016
Don T. Svinth	December 28, 2016	January 4, 2016
Beverly Marie Doyle	July 28, 2017	August 5, 2017
Deborah Lynn (Doyle) James	October 5, 2017	October 14, 2017

2017 Church Council Report

Keeping in mind our threefold “20/20” goals this council set in the previous year, those being Clear Communication, Every Member Involvement and Mortgage Reduction, we moved our church’s work into 2017 with an eye on how, with God’s help, we continue to shorten the distance between God’s work and our hands. We reflect, at this end of the calendar, upon the victories, ongoing challenges and the lessons of the intervening months presented this community of believers.

We give thanks for the dedication of our departing council members. To Doug Hedlund, who generously volunteered to fill in so Diane Krause could continue to rebuild her health (glad you are feeling better, Diane!), whose prior leadership on council helped keep our course true. To Judy Burwell, whom I thank for her generous application of skills and caring as she can be found working with BASE, Youth, Outreach, Food for Families, and I’m sure I am overlooking something, but thanks for that too. Thanks also to Mike Doyle, my predecessor in the president’s chair, of whom, with the assent of the council, I might continue to strive to be less of a pale shadow in the upcoming year.

Thanks also to our consultants to the council, Mary Herem, Treasurer, who has gone above and beyond with a number of critical tasks this year, including Payroll Pinch-hitting, and configuring an on-paper budget for BASE, which the reader may review in this publication. And thanks to Kathy Creso, Financial, not to mention, Recording Secretary, who could be counted on to step in when council members were absent, for hosting interim Pastor and Mrs. Pedersen, and for simply being here.

We give thanks as well for our incoming members, Nancy Vignec, who was tasked out of the gate with nothing less than bridging a years-formed chasm of mutual reticence between the SLC and BASE communities. By reviewing and clarifying the roles of each partner, the BASE Task Force brought both sides closer to the unity of mission to which we aspire. Rich Montoya joined us as well this year, and has the backs of the band of mavericks in Physical Administration (a.k.a. Wednesday Warriors.) Rob DeZarn rounds up the Class of 2019, and brings with him a portfolio of skills more bulging than his wallet, both of which can be found in

front of him at the meeting table. The latter, one can see—and one hopes he doesn’t walk off without it; the former presents itself when needed throughout the meeting, in the form of pertinent questions and clarifications. Youth are benefitting from his support of the new PLU students/area Lutheran High Schoolers’ Connect program.

My cohorts with one year remaining on council are Louise Luberts, our literally irreplaceable Secretary (let this not be the case for 2018), who has taken up the reins for Food for Families this Fall. Thanks, for expertly filling the role of Council Vice President, to John Briehl. I thank him also for his assistance during Pastor John’s sabbatical, and note his critical contributions via the Personnel and Coordinating committees. Thanks for your work in these groups as we strive to revivify our committee structure.

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Thanks to our office team who have kept the wheels of operation on-track during Office Manager Nick's absence (and this, concurrent with Pastor John's Sabbatical.) Those who sweated it out this Summer in our un-air conditioned quarters included Edna Coonc, Kathy Creso, Stefanie DeZarn, Mary Herem, Elois MacDonald, Charlotte Surridge, as well as our stalwart front desk volunteers. Thanks for Michael Luberts' and Rob DeZarn's work in getting the HVAC system replaced as this same team rolls into Fall!

Pastor Schier-Hanson, thank you for walking with us through another year, keeping our focus on the liberating message of Christ and encouraging our active response to that Good News. We thank visiting Pastor Bob Pedersen, his wife Jan and the Pedersen family for having had the rich opportunity to get to know you all better as Pastor Bob led us through this sabbatical summer season. Sorry to learn about your windswept trailer, but thankful you escaped harm. Travel on!

Thanks to the people of this church, for the gifts of time and talents as well as the financial support you have shared in all aspects of church life. Thanks to the members of Spanaway Lutheran Church for the opportunity to serve this congregation, and I hope that we are satisfactorily meeting the challenges of the job presented to us.

These appreciations come from the perspective of the governing body of this congregation. For more a more specific picture of the facets of this gem, please read the reports of our committees covering the range of our work this year.

Where you see need, please contact any one of the above council representative--including the three incoming we welcome for this next year's Council. If you are not one of them, consider becoming one this time next year. Please keep the Spanaway Lutheran Church Council in your prayers for 2018.

We give God thanks and praise.

For the Council,

Gregg Wright Osborn,

President

Food for Families Annual Report 2017

2017 was a productive year with many new clients. Having a booth at the health Fiesta was great for Food for Families. Eleven new clients were signed up.

With the donations of food, clothing & monetary giving from our congregation and friends so many pleased families leave our church thankful and blessed.

Mid-year Edna stepped down from the coordinating responsibility and Louise Luberts is now the overseeing coordinator.

B.A.S.E (Before and After School Enrichment) Annual Report 2017

On September 7th, 1994 BASE opened to the neighborhood as a new outreach ministry of Spanaway Lutheran Church. It has been an honor and pleasure to celebrate 23 years in the ministry, with a full center and a waiting list. We continue to maintain our excellent standards as we continue serving the community around us. We have a long serving team who is dedicated and passionate about providing quality care for our BASE kids.

This year a BASE taskforce was started. This committee is made up of church council members, congregation members, and BASE committee members. The purpose of this task force is to improve the valued relationship between BASE, the council and the congregation. We are all working together following the Spanaway Lutheran Church mission; "To live as Gods people, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ!" BASE always welcomes questions or concerns about our program, please contact the task force, BASE committee members or Kathy at any time. Thank you everyone for all of your hard work!

This October we joined forces with the church to host a "Trick or Table" Halloween event. The kids had a "spooktacular" time walking from table to table collecting treats. They also played games and enjoyed a goodbye snack. We are thankful for the church volunteers, committee members and staff who made this happen!

We are looking forward to an early Christmas as the kids and staff will celebrate our Franklin Graham shoe box packing party. This is a special time when children get to give back. Our goal this year is 200 shoeboxes. During our packing party the kids pack small gifts and toys collected by the children and staff. Special thanks to all of the volunteers who will be participating this year.

Our Secret Sister/Seahawk Buddy Program will be starting this November. This is an opportunity to enhance the lives of BASE children and to let them know the church family cares about them. We are going into our 3rd year and anticipate another year of growing relationships. Sign up will be coming soon!

BASE staff would like to thank the following people who have enriched the lives of our children;

The BASE committee members: Scott Birdseye, Ealane Wollin, Judy Burwell, Nancy Tengesdal, Jeris Ockfen, Suzanne Gayda, Aletta Alford and Glen Ruediger

Our homework gang: Larry Oty, and Pat Mills

Our faithful story time reader: Dick Wollin

Our caroling team: Lydia and Frank Wise

Field trip volunteers: Pat Mills and Ealane Wollin,

Secret Pal Coordinators: Paula Oty, Ealane Wollin and Judy Burwell,

And a special thanks to Mary Herem who keeps us financially sane.

Thank you for blessing our program. We appreciate you more than you know!

Ladies' Bible Study Annual Report 2017

-- no report submitted --

Congregational Life Committee Annual Report 2017

First of all we want to thank each and every one of you who has helped with the “Coffee Hour”. Every special event we had and every time we asked for help, you have stepped up to make it to be VERY SPECIAL. So all of you need a huge “THANK YOU”.

We do hope that we were able to make this last year fun and enjoyable, from our “SOUP SUPPERS” starting with Advent and then on to Lent. There were so many different and appealing soups.

Oh yes let’s not forget the “CHRISTMAS COOKIES” that everyone shared. Oh so, so, so good.

We also honored all the Women and Men in our lives who helped make each and every one of us who we are. Really nice to have a large “Family”.

There were other events going on during the year like “Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper” and “First Friday Fellowship”. There are most likely more special events that we have forgotten to list, that were done by “Special People” and we do “Thank Them”.

Honoring all of our “Service Men and Women” is really a heartwarming event. We are able to learn more about each on and how they helped make our country free. Also all of their families who remained on the home front.

August made sure we had “Ice Cream Sundaes”. They really hit the spot with all of the heat we were having.

Our Welcoming Pastor Bob and saying so long to Pastor John for 3 months. The groups that did both coffee hours really did a wonderful job of it. In October we said goodbye to Pastor Bob and welcomed back Pastor John.

We also welcomed back the Sunday school children and every one returning from all the summer activities.

We hope that we have covered everything that has happened this last year and hope that you had a good year. Remember if there is something special or an event you would like to see happen next year, please let the committee know so we might be able to see it happen.

WITH GOD’S LOVE AND PEACE
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Miriam Circle Annual Report 2017

Miriam Circle drew study materials from the New Testament this year. Besides our once a month meetings, we enjoy an annual supper in the summer and we support the Congregational Life Committee by serving and arranging the church’s coffee hour on the second Sunday of the month.

This group of women is sharing friendship and support and we are pleased to have grown by 3 new ladies this year. As always we would love to see even more new faces. We meet the second Monday of the month at 7:30 pm in the homes of our members and our meetings are very informal. Bible studies are led by Ruth Briehl.

Quilters Annual Report 2017

The dwindling group of women could use some help. The only thing a woman needs to know is how to tie a knot. If she has sewing machine skills, that's even better! Quilts are made for WIC (Women, Infants and Children), baptisms, high school graduation, special requests for people in need, or for special occasions. Consider this as an opportunity to get involved in an activity for service in congregational life. Gatherings are Wednesdays at 9 o'clock in the old Fireside Room (now Food for Families).

Outreach Committee Annual Report 2017

Committee Name: Outreach Committee

Meeting Time: Second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Committee Members:

Kit Modahl, Marlys Nasset, Susanne Delisle (temporary member in April and May)

Committee Chair: Ealane Wollin stepped down as chair in May 2017

2017 Council Liaison: Nancy Vignec

Committee Mission (please describe):

Outreach purpose is to promote activities which strengthen evangelism among members of SLC and encourage non-members' involvement in our church family.

Describe 5 activities this committee is most proud of accomplishing in 2017:

1. Bike Safety Day, May 13, 2017

- We gave out 65 helmets
- Approximately 20 guests signed the sign-in sheet and indicated they were willing to be contacted. Names and contact information given to office for follow up
- Approximately 20 SLC volunteers signed in
- There were 20 ROTC student volunteers
- Activities included a bike safety route, bike repairs, and bike safety tips
- Costs:
 - \$365 to purchase 89 helmets
 - \$200 for bike repair supplies
 - \$250 for food
- Funding sources;
 - \$250 grant from Thrivent secured by Jenny from BASE
 - \$250 grant secured by Marlys Nasset
 - \$315 from Bike Helmet Fund

2. Third Annual Health Resource Fiesta, September 16, 2017

- 40 members of Spanaway Lutheran volunteered at the Health Fiesta
- About 30 vendors provided health information and services to our neighbors
- 63 Spanaway neighbors received Walgreens flu shots
- 13 participants contributed blood to Cascade Blood Bank
- We served pulled pork, hot dogs, chips, cheese sauce and fresh plums
- Children played games led by the BASE staff
- We gave out splendid door prizes and back packs filled with school supplies
- Carrie Ching from Molina Health Care helped with event coordination
- Molina and Thrivent Financial provided funding
- All services, door prizes and food were free for all

3. Visit to Living Stones Congregation at Shelton Prison, October 28, 2017

- 9 members of Spanaway Lutheran Church are scheduled to worship with the men of the Living Stones Congregation at Shelton Prison on October 28
- We will share God's love with them and they will inspire us with their faith and their ardent worship

What is this committee's proudest accomplishment of 2017?

The number of Outreach Committee members who attended monthly meetings in 2017 ranged from three or four to one. However, between 20 and 40 SLC members turned out to help with the Bike Safety Day and the Health Resource Fiesta. We are proud and grateful for involvement of SLC volunteers!

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What mission oriented activities are you planning for the next year?

We hope to offer a Bike Safety Day in May 2018 and a Health Resource Fiesta in September 2018.

What are two things this committee is planning for the next year?

We plan to engage in the SLC committee restructuring to clarify the Outreach goals of the congregation and to strengthen involvement in Outreach efforts.

Where can members find the details of this committee's activities?

The Outreach bulletin board is located next to the window at the A Street entrance to the church. Committee meeting minutes and planning documents are posted on the bulletin board.

How are you seeking new members?

We concentrate on involving members as volunteers in our activities. In 2017, several new SLC members volunteered for the Bike Safety Day and the Health Fiesta.

Did this committee receive names of volunteers from the Time & Talent survey?

How were those people invited to share their gifts and talents?

The Outreach Committee did not receive names of volunteers from the Time and Talent survey in 2017.

In what ways has this committee invited new members to participate in your mission?

We posted notices in the SLC Lamplighter, made announcements in church, and approached individuals personally to invite their involvement.

The SLC Vice President and Coordinating Committee have also assisted in seeking out new members to participate in our mission.

What needs would you like the congregation to know about?

It is important for SLC to complete its committee restructuring so that goals for Outreach are clarified and SLC's Outreach efforts are strengthened.

Paint Tacoma Pierce Beautiful Annual Report 2017

Group: SLC Team for Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful

Meeting Time: July 19th, August 2nd, August 5th, 2017

Coordinators: John & Mary Herem herem@comcast.net or 253-847-0778.

This year, 23 people volunteered over 187 hours as SLC painted its 27th home. Volunteers enjoyed painting for Valerie Rochefort, a 90-year-old widow living in a 90-year-old home. The house turned out beautiful and amazed Valerie and her family.

Mary and John Herem thank the SLC team for their dedication and excellent work. SLC members included Pastor Bob Pedersen, Iver Eliason, Dale Dillinger, Steve Howe, Laurie Howe, Suzanne Gayda, Mike Gayda, Ron Morris, Glen Ruediger, John Briebl, Jill Olson, Kaylin Aponte, Dustin Willoughby, Elois MacDonald, Mary Herem and John Herem. Non-SLC team members included Jenny Laycock (BASE), Jocelyn Frazier (Jenny's daughter), Rick Ward, Pat Ward, Adaline Pettit, Dave Muellerleile (Corps of Engineers), Dominik Muellerleile.

Mary and John Herem thank the SLC team for their dedication and excellent work. Please keep your calendar clear next July/August and join us as we paint our 28th home.

Physical Administration Committee Report

Accomplishments in 2017

Building

- The Fellowship Hall closet was completely reorganized;
- New solar shades were installed in the preschool hallway by Michael Luberts;
- New heat pumps were installed in the Office suite and in the downstairs BASE space; Thank you to BASE for covering the cost of their heat pump;
- Wireless internet access was extended to the Preschool and Sunday School wing by John Herem;
- Wireless range extenders were installed in the office suite, conference room, fellowship hall and sanctuary by John Herem;
- Programmable Thermostats installed in Sunday School Rooms by Danard Electric;
- New vandal-proof doorbells were installed for Adelplos Siloam, the fireside room, and BASE downstairs ;
- Additional shelving was installed in the dressing room off the women's bathroom in the Narthex by Paul Matthias.

The Church Grounds

- The parking lot and roof moss was brought under control in an environmentally friendly manner by Glen Ruediger;
- A new and permanent preschool sign was erected by John McAuliffe;
- The Atrium plantings were cut back, tended and nurtured by Kory and Kris Nieto, Steve Howe and Mary Herem.
- As always the Wednesday Warriors gave hundreds of hours to mowing, trimming the grass and picking up litter in the garden area.
- New playground equipment in the John Briehl memorial playground.

Community Garden

- The rest of the hazardous trees were taken down in the community garden at no cost by Asplundh who donated two days of time, men and equipment;
- The knot weed infestation was eradicated in the Community garden by Michael Luberts with help from Tim Tengesdal and Glen Ruediger;
- Existing garden bins were improved with industrial strength landscape fabric to prevent the growth of Japanese knotweed;
- Additional garden bins and woodchip walkways were installed in the Community Garden;
- A wonderful new compost bin was built by Sam Wright Osborn as his Eagle Scout Project;
- Water and multiple hose bibs were installed in the community garden;
- Crushed stone was installed to create a vehicle entry into the community Garden.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Schier-Hanson

Community Garden Annual Report 2017

Committee Chairman: Michael Luberts

Garden Coordinator: Kristen Nieto

Master Gardener Liaison: Gayle Halmo

Committee members: Elois Macdonald, Tim Tengesdal, Angie Rivera, Sam Wright Osborn

Committee Mission: We are building and maintaining a Community Garden on East B St. The garden is a recognized garden in the Harvest Pierce County network of Community Gardens. It is open to any community member who wishes to grow vegetables for his or her consumption.

The Garden Committee is very proud to report that the garden opened in the spring and was planted and harvested throughout the summer. A once blighted piece of property on the church grounds is now a lovely, productive garden. We are also proud to say that there has been no vandalism and very little issues from homeless people using the space.

We received several very generous donations from the community that enabled us to proceed with our project without having to raise funds this year.

Lakeview Church of Christ donated two large rolls of very heavy weight (think carpet-weight) landscape fabric that we installed under the garden to suppress the Japanese Knotweed that plagues the area.

Corliss donated twelve yards of rock which we used to build a driveway down the center of the garden so compost and woodchips can be delivered close to the areas we need them.

Asplundh donated two days of time, men and equipment and took down some hazardous trees that were threatening to fall.

Maury Gunderson sawed up and hauled away those trees.

A neighbor named Dave donated time and equipment to help dig the water lines.

Michael Luberts installed the waterlines to the garden.

Sam Wright-Osborn completed his Eagle Scout Project by designing and building a pathway from the parking lot down to the garden and a compost station that is used by both the garden and the food banks to compost past-prime produce.

Kristen Nieto completed all the required paperwork for Harvest Pierce County to accept the Spanaway Lutheran Community Garden into its network of gardens. This allows our garden to receive free compost, woodchips and other support from Pierce County Conservation District.

Tracy Nieto donated and planted five fruit trees and several grape plants to the garden.

A neighbor gave us enough raspberry starts for a row of raspberries.

Kristen, Tracy, and Kory Nieto built an herb spiral that will be planted with perennial herbs in the fall.

Michael planted grass on the bare hillside on the south side of the garden and made many trips to the dump hauling stumps and debris.

The Wednesday Warriors have given their time to mowing, trimming the grass and picking up litter in the garden area.

The garden plots were rented at 15 dollars each and all were spoken for, though one didn't get planted as expected. We had several people in the neighborhood who initially wanted a garden plot but then didn't follow through. We wondered if the cold wet spring put people off, or if there was some confusion about who could use the garden.

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We did have many neighbors stop to tell us what a great addition to the neighborhood the garden is and how lovely it is. The garden has really flourished this summer. The Japanese Knotweed is still present but very manageable at this point Michael installed a water meter on the garden water line so we will be able to know exactly how much water the garden used this year. We estimate that the water usage was heavier in the early summer as Michael was watering frequently to get the grass established. We also had an extremely dry summer.

Our current plan for 2018 is to double the number of garden beds. Kristen is looking into grants that are available to us so we can buy materials to build the raised beds and more waterlines. She is also sending requests to some seed companies for seed donations.

We would like to plant blueberry bushes.

Our plan in November is to finish cleaning up the stump debris and then build more raised garden beds on the south side of the gravel road which will essentially double the garden.

Alex Wildfang is planning to build a handicap accessible bed as his Eagle Scout Project. We will be focusing on advertising the garden in the community in order to bring more gardeners in. We encourage congregation members to spread the word about our expanding garden to anyone they know who might be interested in a peaceful, productive low-maintenance garden plot at SLC.

Sunday School Annual Report 2017

Teachers for the 2017/2018 school year are: Stefanie DeZarn, Sara Schier-Hanson, Pastor John Schier-Hanson

The mission of the Sunday school is to place Holy Scriptures in the hands of Spanaway Lutheran children, their friends, and visitors so that the Word of God will dwell in their hearts richly and they will grow strong in the Christian faith.

Accomplishments of the Sunday school in 2017 for which we are proud:

1. Vacation Bible School with BASE and Lutherwood. We were able to tell the Good News to 60+ children from the neighborhood.
2. Handmade handouts for Valentine's Day and Mothers Day to everyone in the congregation.
3. Purchase of new curriculum "Living the Good News" which is being taught along the church's liturgical year and helps the kids stay more engaged during worship.

Mission oriented activities for the 2017-2018 school year:

Super Bowl of Caring food collection. High School class will continue providing morning help with Food for Family set-up.

Two activities we have planned for 2017-2018:

1. Valentine's Day and Mother's Day treats for congregation.
2. Earth Day activities

Our activities can be seen on the bulletin board in the A Street entrance and notices are placed in the Lamplighter and Beacon.

A need we would like the congregation to know about:

Due to dwindling attendance in youth/children, we are now teaching Sunday School after worship, at 11:30am to hopefully reach more children, including visitors.

Submitted by Stefanie DeZarn for the Sunday School Committee

Preschool Annual Report 2017

Committee name: SLC Preschool Advisory Board

Meeting time: Monthly

Committee members: Kay Schimke, Julie Thiel, Paula Oty, Marlys Nessel, Suzanne Gayda, Ellen McCracken

Committee Chair: Ellen McCracken

Council Liaison: Ellen McCracken

Committee Mission: We believe in an environment that embodies the spirit of acceptance, tolerance, and appreciation for every child. Praying, learning, and growing together.

Describe 5 activities this committee is most proud of accomplishing in the current year:

1. Fifth year in operation.
2. Enrollment increase growth.
3. Updated Facebook for Preschool.
4. Attended Early Learning Conference in Spokane August 2017 called "Starting Strong".
5. Recruited new volunteers.

Proudest accomplishment of 2017:

Enrollment growth in class size.

What mission oriented actives are planned for 2017?

Family Nights, Christmas Program, Conference Week, Meetings Fall and Spring.

What two things are this committee planning for 2017?

1. Field Trips
2. Preschool Roundup Spring 2018
3. Career Presentations i.e. Laurel the Vet etc. or Fireman John on Fire Safety

Where can members find the details of this committee's activities?

Preschool newsletters/Facebook

How are you seeking members?

N/A

In what ways has this committee invited new members to participate in your mission?

You are always open to participate in preschool, open to whole congregation to help and volunteer, i.e. come and be a guest reader.

What needs would you like the congregation to know about?

Children Are Our Future.

Submitted by Ellen McCracken, Preschool Teacher/Director

Stewardship Committee Annual Report 2017

Committee Name: Stewardship Committee

Meeting Time: 2nd Tuesday of the Month, normally at 6 p.m.

Committee Members: The following congregational members worked on stewardship issues during 2017, including the Mortgage Reduction Committee -- Susanne Delisle, Jim Halmo, Jeris Ockfen and Tracy Nieto (Chair of the joint committees)

Committee Chair: Jim Halmo

2017 Council Liaison: Rob DeZarn

Committee Mission: To provide oversight and direction for the congregation's stewardship life and to encourage all members of the congregation to be fruitful stewards of the Lord's gifts.

2017 Activities: The Committee follow-up to address the results of the special meeting of the Congregation held June 5, 2016 to review the Church Council's "20/20" project proposal to obtain involvement from every church member, provide clearer communications on church matters, and to reduce the church mortgage. As a result of the Church Council's recommendation and the congregation's approval to pursue an active program to reduce our long-term mortgage debt, the Committee focused the latter part of 2016 and into 2017 on measures to see how this might be best achieved. Currently the church pays out almost \$4,000 monthly in mortgage principal and interest. By paying down the mortgage with additional principal only payments, the amount of interest that must be paid on the principal likewise decreases monthly.

The Committee has focused on (1) ways to pay off our mortgage by our 60th Anniversary, (2) reached consensus on how to achieve the goal through specific monthly payments and (3) sought guidance and recommendations, as needed, from church members on our efforts.

Focusing on the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, an excellent article on hospitality in the Luther household was placed in The Beacon and comments were prepared similarly for a Temple Talk on pledging. Since the Council did not want a full fledged pledge drive in 2016 on the regular operating fund, but with a stronger focus on the Mortgage Pay-down, the Committee has prepared materials for the fall 2017 annual pledge drive.

Ongoing 2017 Activities: The whole "20/20" campaign has clearly been an ongoing endeavor past 2016.

Periodic updates on the level of giving towards the mortgage pay-down have appeared in both The Lamplighter and The Beacon.

The Committee had entered 2016 starting to review the subject of 'hospitality' in our midst, what it meant to be 'a welcoming church,' and how to focus on being a more active 'inviting' church from a missional perspective. That has been renewed in 2017 as the Committee has prepared various brief articles on hospitality for inclusion in The Lamplighter, and additional articles may follow in 2018.

Jim Halmo for the
Stewardship Committee

Wednesday Warriors Annual Report 2017

Committee Name: Wednesday Warriors

Meeting Time: Second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM.

Warriors: Retired old guys willing to help on Wednesdays. Regulars include Iver Eliason, Larry Parsons, Paul Matthias, Tim Tengesdal, Glen Ruediger, John Herem, Greg Thurmond, Dustin Willoughby, Michael Luberts.

Committee Chair: None of us take responsibility for the group, but John Herem wrote this report.

Committee Mission: Repair and maintain the church facility and grounds then eat lunch at Taco Bell.

Activities: As in the past, we worked a little and talked a lot. We saved the church expenses through self-help repairs and maintenance. We repaired whatever people wrote in the fix-it book. We kept the grounds mowed, weeded and cleaned up after vagrants. Michael Luberts worked as a lone wolf installing an electric door operator to the sanctuary. With a little help from the rest of us, Michael created the community gardens including plumbing water to the beds. Tim Tengesdal replaced HVAC filters each quarter. Each fall, we regularly remove leaves from the parking lots and lawns, to make the church-wide cleanup day less work.

Worship & Music Committee Annual Report 2017

Committee Name: Worship and Music

Meeting Time: 5:00 PM, the second Tuesday of each month

Committee Members: John Herem, Laurie Howe, Lydia Wise, Dale Kraus, Jeannette Frieson

Committee Staff Members: Pastor John Schier-Hanson, Cheryl Drewes

2017 Council Liaison: Pastor Schier-Hanson

Committee Chair: John Herem

Committee Mission: Congregation members come to church expecting a meaningful service that runs smoothly and reflects the seasons and traditions of being a Lutheran. Our committee works with church staff to plan worship and music for the church year. Ongoing activities include: hanging seasonal colors; organizing children sermons, organizing assisting ministers, communion servers, acolytes, ushers, altar guild, greeters and lectors; selecting and practicing eclectic music for all services; planning services and decorating the sanctuary for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter seasons; building contemporary and classic services in the EasyWorship program for screen display; composing bulletins; and of course, writing sermons.

This past year included special actions. We agreed to permanently switch from two Christmas Eve services to one beginning this year. (We still have a Christmas Day service.) To make communion go smoother, we switched to acolytes and communion servers communing first instead of last. During Lent, we tried a contemplative Taizé' style with mixed feedback. Cheryl Drewes organized a children's choir and orchestra that performed at holiday services. We created a notebook of step-by-step procedures for control booth sound, lighting and projection. Our committee devoted the summer to creating flyers for visitors and congregants interested in volunteering for any of the 13 areas needed to make services smooth and meaningful. Each flyer describes the position and who to contact to become a volunteer. We will maintain flyers on the Worship & Music bulletin board.

Youth and Youth Education Annual Report 2017

Chairs: Stefanie DeZarn (Youth) and Sara Schier-Hanson (Youth Education)

Members: Kaylin Aponte, Judy Burwell, Marlys Nettet, Tracy Nieto (Elementary Youth activities), Gregg Wright Osborn (ex-officio) and Laurel Wright Osborn (Peace Lutheran feeding coordinator)

Council Representative: Mike Doyle (Youth) and Louise Luberts (Youth Ed)

This year, one where committee reconfiguration has been on the mind of our council, the planning bodies for Youth and Youth Education have united. Co-Chairs were selected by Pastor John after the two committees each operated chair-less for the better part of a year, with Stefanie DeZarn and Sara Schier-Hanson overseeing the respective aspects of our young people's social and ecumenical growth in the church. New to the classroom curriculum is "Living the Good News", which parallels our Church Year's liturgical cycle, allowing age-appropriate insights into the scriptures presented at that Sunday's service.

Our youth (singular's) retreat this year, courtesy of the ALYVE board, was held at Eatonville's Camp Arnold, on a chilly, near-snowy February weekend. Spanaway Lutheran was well represented with ALYVE board members Maiya McAuliffe Nettet and exiting President, Keoni Newman (no tackling studies at UW). Maiya continues this fall with the board, has been joined by Emily DeZarn (Secretary!) and—even though he doesn't think so—her brother Noah. Good job all!

Our twice-yearly visit to provide a meal for the community at Peace Lutheran in the Hilltop continues—in fact, most recently last week, as this report is typed. We were grateful for the assistance of the three youth who were not zapped by the Bug going around; otherwise, the Youth might have been mistaken for the five adults who accompanied them. (Right.) At any rate, about 70 people were fed and we once again enjoyed fellowship with our friends at Peace.

Youth assistance with the Wednesday Advent, Lenten dinners and Easter brunch has directed donations toward programs like this summer's Vacation Bible School (here, serving some 60 area children), as well as Bible Camp at Camp Lutherwood, south of Bellingham, (who hosted two of our youth). Once again, in collaboration with BASE, Outreach and with help from across the congregation, we opened our homes and hearts to five great young leaders who shared the Word in song, story and no little silliness.

Another ALYVE activity found Your Correspondent driving youth around King and Pierce Counties through the nether hours between 31 March and April Fool's Day for a Fool's Night Out event. There we buddied up with youth from Saint Mark's in Edgewood (where the fun started) and Celebration in Bonney Lake. Games, snacks, trampolines, improvisation on Biblical themes, flat-footed ice hockey, swimming and sleep deprivation were on the schedule for this nutty nocturnal frolic. Thanks to Jennifer Newman and John McAuliffe for spelling me on either end of the night.

The Youth Auction remains the major fundraising event for the group, and this year was as successful as memory allows. Thanks to all who donated to the auction, and then turned around and bid like it wasn't theirs in the first place. Thanks also to event heads Stefanie and Judy for realizing our theme of Little Italy this year. Funds raised here also assisted with VBS.

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For 2018, the ELCA sends its youth to Houston for their national convention. A Tex-Mex menu for the next auction should come as no surprise.

Quarterly activities for elementary-aged youth are also continuing, coordinated by committee member Tracy Nieto. The younger members participate in activities at the church or go on a local field trip. (Thank you, 2016 report.)

Your support helped realize the opportunity to send recent UW graduate Hannah Wright Osborn in mission via the ELCA to East Jerusalem/West Bank where she currently works with young Palestinians in schools and environmental programs. Updates from her are posted on a special bulletin board in the foyer, and also via e-mail.

Decreasing numbers in our student population at Spanaway Lutheran continues to be the locus of concern with those who have dedicated themselves to the needs of our young people. As a critical part of this body of believers, we aspire to provide the young people of our synodic neighborhood a dynamic core of peer fellowship here in this community, as they work their way outward to the adult world. Knowing that neighbor congregations are in similar straits, and situated as we are close to a Lutheran University with gifted and willing young leaders excited to meet with our teens, we move to bring the two together. Thus, CONNECT is the name of this group of servants, and Mondays from 6 to 8 pm they can be found enjoying food, Bible study and fellowship at PLU's next door church, Trinity Lutheran. Thanks to the work of Pastor Schier-Hanson and Trinity's Reverend Jeffery Gaustad in building this program, the assistance of Administrator Stefanie DeZarn, along with the dynamic work of our four PLU ground floor go-getter leaders (Allie, Ben, Charles and Siobhan) for getting this ministry up and running.

We are grateful for your generous continued support of our youth, without which many might not be able to participate in the activities and opportunities that come our way. Please pray for our youth and leaders as we move into our new church year.

Submitted Gregg Wright Osborn

Food Bank Annual Report 2017

The Spanaway Food Bank is operated by four churches, Spanaway Lutheran, Bethany Lutheran, United Methodist and Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church. It is open each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, with each church serving every four weeks. Coordinators are responsible for obtaining volunteers for their week. Gayle Halmo is Spanaway Lutheran's coordinator. The Director of the Food Bank is Harold "Smokey" Smith. He is responsible for the overall running of the Food Bank.

Food is obtained from the Emergency Food Network (EFN), through donations - both food and monetary - from the churches, and community food drives. A new venue this year is two large warehouses in Fife and Puyallup that supplies commissaries. They are donating pallets of excess food weekly. We get bread from the Franz Bakery Outlet and occasionally from local grocery stores. Smokey orders/purchases, and coordinates the deliveries of food items. Volunteers bag the canned and non-perishable items (commodity bags) each week. Smokey also oversees the building maintenance including the freezers (4) and refrigerators (4), heating, and fans.

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The mission of the Food Bank is to improve the health and well-being of the low income individuals and families by providing the necessary food ingredients to make three nutritious meals a day for 3 consecutive days. No one needing assistance is turned away. This year we are focusing on the homeless population, giving out individually packaged items and pop-top cans to prevent wasteful dumping of unwanted items. Bins will be set up in the distribution room for these items and separate commodity bags will be made.

Each church coordinator organizes 15 to 20 volunteers to serve in the food bank each week. We serve an average of 350 families a month (1,200 individuals) giving out 48 lbs of food per family, and distributing 14,682 lbs of food a month, which is more than many Food Banks. Interviewers sign-in clients for each visit. Boxers bag fresh produce, and load up a cart for each family that includes a commodity bag, meat, butter, eggs, cheese, cereals, produce and breads. Also cat and dog food for the 4-footed family members is provided. In addition we provide personal items such as shampoo, soaps, toothpaste and brushes, razors, baby food and diapers, laundry and dish detergents. Donations are needed and appreciated for these items. We receive some generous monetary donations during the year from our churches. Our current bank account is at \$6,000. Items are purchased at Costco and an account has been set up at Grocery Outlet for larger purchases of canned goods when needed.

The Food Bank attempts to provide special items for the holidays. Food Bank funds are not used to purchase holiday turkeys; only money specifically designated to buy turkeys can be used., because of the expense involved. Generally, we have some generous donations and we have some turkeys to hand out. Canned goods and other holiday foods are provided. This year QFC is donating turkey dinners in their store for Thanksgiving and Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church is donating Christmas baskets that include a holiday meal and small gifts for children.

The Food Bank needs continued maintenance. Smokey has replaced the fan in the distribution room and purchased two new freezers, a replacement large double door in the distribution room and a smaller 18 cubic foot chest freezer for the storage room. New bins are being made for the distribution room for designated homeless items

The Food Bank always needs volunteers during the days it is open, and on Tuesdays when pallets are picked up and large shipments are being delivered. We are fortunate in having some consistent volunteers to bag commodity items and do general cleaning and maintenance. Volunteers can also help with shopping at Costco and Cash & Carry. Volunteering one time a month is all the time that is needed to keep our Food Bank running smoothly. Contact Gayle Halmo if you would like to help. Also check the Food Bank Bulletin Board at the 'A' Street entry for updates and needs. Drop any donations in the large basket below the bulletin board.

Thanks to all who serve our community by volunteering and donating to the Food Bank.

Submitted by Gayle Halmo Food Bank Coordinator.

Council Nominations

Annamarie (Anne) Briehl

Anne was born in Provo, Utah, the fourth of seven children and has lived in Spanaway / Graham area since 1972. She attended Our Lady Queen of Heaven throughout junior high and high school and has been a member at Spanaway Lutheran Church since 1981. Married to Doug Briehl since 1981, they have two sons, Lucas (age 24) and Alexander (age 19).

In the past, Anne has served on the SLC Education Committee and was an elementary-level Sunday School teacher, 2004 -2010. Currently, Anne and Doug have taken on the role of coordinating usher assignments for worship services.

Anne is a graduate of Washington State University and is currently Marketing Director for a wholesale distribution business in Auburn. Involved in a number of committee-based projects through work, she feels it would be an interesting and educational experience to serve on the church council.

Glen Ruediger

I was born and raised in Baudette, Minnesota up until 7th grade, when my family and I moved out here into the beautiful Pacific Northwest. I served in the United States Marine Corp for 3 tours of duty starting in 1969. I have been a member of Spanaway Lutheran Church for about 3 years now. I am on the BASE Program Committee, I am a Wednesday Warrior, a weekly volunteer for the Food Bank and Food for Families and I actively participate in almost all Church functions and events.

I would like to contribute to the Spanaway Lutheran Church's council to serve my Lord and to serve my congregation in the best way possible. Thank you for the nomination.

Doug Hedlund

Doug has been a member of Spanaway Lutheran Church for 38 years. He has been voted onto council numerous times in the past and has occupied both president and vice president chairs.

Doug is actively involved in the finance committee and congregational life committee and in his free time he enjoys the outdoors, a good round of golf, and his 3 grandchildren.