Senior Pastor Report

We are blessed. As we look towards Westwood’s 75th Anniversary celebration, Oct. 5-6, 2019, we look back on ventures of which we couldn’t have seen the ending, some unknown perils, but not only an amazing past year in so many ways, but also 75 years to celebrate!

You tell me often what a great staff we have, and I couldn’t agree more! To a person, there is incredible energy, creativity, faithfulness, risk-taking, compassion, commitment to the Gospel and our Mission, and dedication to and delight in all of you, the people we are honored to serve. I am so grateful for them and for you!

The Strategic Directions we set for 2018-2020 seem a good way to highlight a few things and remind us all of the current priorities for time and resources.

The first Direction is “Living out our Individual & Corporate Vocations.”

We kicked off our year with almost 100 people in Work Affinity Groups, looking more deeply at how our faith and our vocations are lived out in a variety of job settings. In Lent 2018, we packed Good Shepherd Hall as we studied “My Neighbor is Jewish,” looking at the darker side of the Reformation. I believe the Vigil we hosted after the shooting at the Synagogue in Pittsburgh was a more powerful moment for Westwood, together with our greater community, because of our heightened understanding and awareness.

The second Direction is called “Building Capacity,” and it focuses on our own growth in stewardship so that we might fully fund the vision to which God has called us. The “Parable of the Talents Challenge” in May was a fun and fruitful experience, as almost 300 households received random amounts of money (a total of $10,000 was given out) to go and use their talents to multiply the money. Four weeks later, $51,000 was returned! Well done, good and talented servants! The Dodoma Christian Medical Center clinic has hired 3 new staff and is reaching out to elementary-aged students with dental care that they would not have otherwise received!

The third and final Strategic Direction is Reaching Out into our Community.

In our Vision, we speak of “ending poverty, strengthening all forms of families, and working for justice.” As we discern our vocation as a congregation, a team of people is working to find a special way Westwood can address a need in our community, possibly around affordable housing. The goal will be to move outside our walls “into ventures of which we cannot see the ending...down paths as yet untrodden.”

The Council and Foundation had a joint meeting about planned giving and how we most effectively work together in this effort to ‘build capacity.’ A new Stewardship Advisory Team is being established in this new year (a standing group that reports to the Council) to address ongoing and more long-term strategies around annual and capital appeals and ongoing education for all.

The third and final Strategic Direction is Reaching Out into our Community.

In our Vision, we speak of “ending poverty, strengthening all forms of families, and working for justice.” As we discern our vocation as a congregation, a team of people is working to find a special way Westwood can address a need in our community, possibly around affordable housing. The goal will be to move outside our walls “into ventures of which we cannot see the ending...down paths as yet untrodden.”

continued...
cementing our congregation as a place of faithful innovation for the benefit of the world that God loves.

It’s hard to name all the beautiful ways that you, as Westwood, serve, worship, and learn and love: our WECC, the Community Meal, our quilters, our burgeoning children’s ministries, our youth, young adults and seniors, moms and dads, mentors, our caring support groups, our stunning music, the warm hospitality and vibrancy our new members speak of, the competent teams of leaders at work around here, your generosity….WOW. Thank you. God is working in and through you every day. Together, we have so much for which to give thanks for, and so much to look forward to!

Onward, my friends!
+Pastor Tania Haber

Council President Report

Westwood Friends,

Greetings from your Church Council. We continue to step out in “Good Courage,” knowing that you are supporting us in prayer and commitment to Westwood’s many ministries. And what a year it was!

As a Council, we have diligently reviewed the Strategic Directions and Westwood’s Vision to see what we are doing well and what our opportunities are. We have held joint meetings with our WLC Memorial Foundation and invited community leaders to speak to us about how we may continue to serve outside our doors. Our ongoing focus on vocation has led to spirited conversations and forward movement.

Let me offer a “Thank You” to each of you for the gifts you offer, whether they are time, talent, or financial. These are all signs of God’s gracious love. None of us could have anticipated the wild success of the “Parable of the Talents.” What fun to watch our members’ creativity and passion for the cause come forward in a multitude of ways! Hearing Dr. Charles (lead dentist from the clinic in Dodoma) speak about the magnitude of the gift brought us full circle around what we can do. The Artisans of the Common Good theme this year also is having a profound impact on so many of us. It was a joy to see the packed room week after week for “My Neighbor is Jewish” last Lent. Our eyes were opened and our hearts fed with the messages shared. Affinity groups and small groups formed for fellowship and worship, and groups who serve at Holiday Fair, funerals. Community Meal are fortunate to be part of a robust and growing congregation.

Our entire ministry team leads us forth day after day. Hearing the powerful messages coming from our pastoral team week after week is the most profound gift I receive from Westwood, followed closely by the outstanding musical offerings. Having recently switched to watching live on Sunday mornings, I realize just how powerful the gift of community is at WLC.

As I wrap up my Council term, my heart overflows with gratitude for the ongoing examples of good courage, of welcome, of support, of stewardship, and of community. Thank you for this opportunity to serve on your Church Council. I know that God’s hand is leading us and His love supporting us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

See you at the Annual Meeting where we will lay the groundwork for the ambitious year ahead!

In His Service,
Karoline Pierson, President

Council Members

* Karoline Pierson President
  Chris Hentges Vice President/President Elect
  James Behnke Treasurer
  Wanda Nightengale Secretary
  Lacey Kraft Member at Large
  * Michael White Member at Large

  Kathy Catalano Member at Large
  Laura Smith Member at Large
  Jim Fiebelkorn Member at Large
  * Nick Lovas Member at Large
  Tania Haber Senior Pastor

* notes those outgoing members
Nomination’s Team Report

Church Council - New Members

Sara Moran
Council, President-Elect
I’ve been a member of Westwood for 6 years. My husband, Bob and I have been married for 8 years. We have a son, Isaac who is 16 and in 10th grade at St. Louis Park High school, Maggie, our daughter is a kindergartner at Aquila and our foster daughter, Remy will turn three in February. Over that period of time, I have been involved in a mom’s group, early childhood advisory group, parent of high schoolers vocation group, adult leader for the recent youth gathering trip to Houston. I’m excited to serve on the council to learn more about what Westwood does and how it functions, meet and grow relationships with the Westwood family and to serve as we are called to do.

David Frank
Council Member, At-Large
My wife Gina and I joined Westwood in 2014 after a move from Iowa. We have three grown children and one grandson. An interesting fact is that my family helped start a new Lutheran church when I was a teenager and years later Gina and myself were also founding members of a new Lutheran church in Iowa. My vocation is Record’s Management and digital preservation of historic documents. Westwood involvement: Prison Re-entry mentoring, Westwood band, Assisting Minister, Men’s Retreats, and Pastoral Intern support group. I have enjoyed the passion for outreach evident at Westwood and look forward to serving our congregational needs while encouraging opportunities for Westwood to “be Jesus’ hands and feet” in our larger community.

Dan Aune
Council Member, At-Large
I have been a member of Westwood for 20 years. I have been married 23 years to my wife Kim, and we have two daughters, Megan, a sophomore at the University of North Dakota, and Natalie, a Senior at St. Louis Park High School.
Confirmation Guide 2013 - 2016
Internship Committee 2015 - 2016
Small group Bible studies, Affinity groups, Parent vocation group, Men’s retreat, Lector, greeter, and usher. I am excited about serving on council because I want to be involved in shaping the vision of Westwood as we look for ways to make a real difference in the lives of people in our church, community and world.

Nominations Team - New Members

Hugh Mattson
Nominations Team
How long you’ve been a member: 21 years
Involved in: Food packing and Teenager Small Group.

Heidi Thompson
Nominations Team
How long you’ve been a member: 16 years
Involved in: Mom’s group, choir, handbells, and teaching Sunday school.

Steven Seehusen
Nominations Team
How long you’ve been a member: 10 years
Involved in: Connect the Dots and Spark.

Re-Electing Members for 2nd Year

Karin Renier
Jane Severson Kelly
Phil Coen-Pesch

Audit Team

Jared Settingsgard
Audit Team
Family: Meghan, Nora and Cam. We’ve been at Westwood for 3 years officially. Involvement: We frequent the contemporary service on Sunday’s and occasionally attend messy worship on Wednesday’s. Nora attended pre-k last year and Cam now attends WECC full time.

Brandon Rosenthal
Audit Team
Family: Stacie, Logan and Abigail. My wife and I joined Westwood in 2015. Involvement: I am a former member of Financial Management Advisory Group, participant in the Westwood golf league, Logan and Abbigail both attend WECC, and we occasionally attend messy worship on Wednesdays.
With the Prayer of Good Courage on our lips, we're moving toward a God-sized vision. Together.

First, let’s tend to our own “home” here at Westwood. Why? Because every morning we welcome almost 100 precious children into our space, and our building is not currently equipped to protect them well. Our friends in wheelchairs and walkers have not had an accessible restroom. And because we want our spaces to be safe, secure, and accessible to all. So, construction will begin this May on a $1.4 million project that will ensure:

1. **ACCESSIBILITY:**
   We’ll remodel the bathrooms inside Door 2 (the covered entrance) to make them fully accessible. We’ll also add two stalls to meet code and rotate them to enter off the main hallway.

2. **SECURITY:**
   We’ll move/remodel a few spaces so we can secure both the east and west WECC hallways, create a new WECC office, and add a check-in point right inside Door 2.

3. **SAFETY:**
   Our desire for safety (and the latest fire codes) require that we finish sprinkling our entire building.

4. **SUSTAINABILITY:**
   We need to replace the oldest sections of our roof and skylights to make us more energy efficient.

Once our home is in order, we are asking God to SEND US INTO OUR COMMUNITY with a second, separate mission appeal to care for those who need it most. It will be a courageous “venture of which we cannot see the ending.” Our hope is that this move can address housing and/or childcare needs, but details are yet to be worked out.

Officially, pledging for this first step of our vision—the “All Are Welcome” appeal—will happen in May 2019. But WECC families are already raising funds and, of course, gifts are needed upfront and can be given at any time. To contribute:

- Give online and select “All Are Welcome Appeal 2019-2022” (or “WECC Special Fundraising,” if you prefer).
- Or contact Cindy Folin, Administrator, to discuss gifts from IRAs, stocks, or other giving options. **THANK YOU.**
CONSTRUCTION BEGINS IN MAY
Treasurer’s Report

Thank you for both your financial contributions and time commitments over the past year. During 2018 Westwood accomplished many financial related activities which included selling the donated land, paying off $312 thousand of short term debt, sponsoring the “Parable of Talents Challenge” which generated $51 thousand in donations sent to Dodoma Christian Medical Center Dental Outreach, and the roll out of Westwood Connect.

At the same time, Westwood did not see the historical upswing in yearend contributions. This resulted in General Fund revenue coming in 5% below budget and a reduction in the fund balance by $56 thousand down to $42 thousand.

In comparing Westwood’s 2018 financial results to 2017, the General Fund revenue ended down 1% while expenses increased 5% due to full year of the current staff complement and increased building maintenance. The Westwood Early Childhood Center Fund (WECC) had a 3% increase in overall revenue and a 1% increase to expenses. In addition, WECC transferred $50 thousand to the upcoming 2019 ALL ARE WELCOME Appeal bringing the ending fund balance to $21 thousand.

Looking forward to 2019, Westwood received strong financial commitments to the General Fund which is projected to maintain a level fund balance and support the many diverse missions. I encourage you to continue your generous support and to step up boldly with a joyful heart, filled with gratitude and generosity. Westwood is fortunate to have a strong team overseeing finances and administration. Council and the Pastors work closely with the Director of Administration, the Financial Management Advisory Group and the Audit Committee to ensure conscientious and faithful stewardship of your financial gifts. I am grateful for this team.

Again, thank you for the generous gifts you gave during 2018 to support Westwood’s mission and ministries and may God bless your lives and our community during 2019.

James Behnke
Treasurer

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75th Anniversary

October 5 + 6, 2019

As we reflect on where we’ve been, celebrate who we are, and dream about where God is leading us, plan to join in the festivities!

Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019
A fun event in the Sanctuary for all ages…pictures, songs, stories, followed by a reception.

Sunday, Oct. 6, 2019
Festival Worship at 8:45 & 10:45 a.m. with Michael Burkhardt.

Sunday, Oct. 6, 2019
A concert with a commissioned choral piece on the “Prayer of Good Courage” by Ralph Johnson, a reunion choir, and all of Westwood’s musical talents past and present to enjoy!

Reception following.
## Statement of Financial Position

### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>As of December 31, 2018</th>
<th>As of December 31, 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Investments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$ 121,956</td>
<td>$ 236,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>408,628</td>
<td>533,920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and Equipment at Cost</td>
<td>8,913,590</td>
<td>9,055,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$ 9,444,174</td>
<td>$ 9,825,559</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage Payable</td>
<td>$ 1,380,542</td>
<td>$ 1,434,839</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Term Loan</td>
<td></td>
<td>312,133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Liabilities</td>
<td>62,888</td>
<td>115,955</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>1,443,430</td>
<td>1,862,927</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>7,592,116</td>
<td>7,428,712</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td>408,628</td>
<td>533,920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>8,000,744</td>
<td>7,962,632</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</td>
<td>$ 9,444,174</td>
<td>$ 9,825,559</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Congregational Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistics</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baptisms</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriages</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funerals</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Members</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Weekly Attendance</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation Enrollment</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>2545</td>
<td>2532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapsed/Transferred</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Westwood Lutheran Church

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2019

Westwood Early Childhood Center Fund

For the Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2019

WECC Revenues: Historical Trend

Total Revenues: Historical Trend
# Capital Fund

For the Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Budget</th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS - CAPITAL FUNDS - BEGINNING</strong></td>
<td>$133,621</td>
<td>$133,621</td>
<td>$200,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Fund</td>
<td>109,309</td>
<td>122,183</td>
<td>33,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Are Welcome Appeal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>133,058</td>
<td>327,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Sale Net Proceeds</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>143,423</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td>259,309</td>
<td>398,664</td>
<td>361,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEBT FINANCING</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal and Interest Payments</td>
<td>(114,228)</td>
<td>(114,228)</td>
<td>(114,228)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Term Financing/Loan Payments</td>
<td>(320,473)</td>
<td>(318,300)</td>
<td>682,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Debt Financing</strong></td>
<td>(434,701)</td>
<td>(432,528)</td>
<td>568,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Expenditures</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>84,543</td>
<td>1,213,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Capital Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>84,543</td>
<td>1,213,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>(225,392)</td>
<td>(118,407)</td>
<td>(284,091)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from(to) Other Funds</td>
<td>135,000</td>
<td>185,000</td>
<td>137,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS - CAPITAL FUNDS - ENDING</strong></td>
<td>$43,229</td>
<td>$200,214</td>
<td>$53,123</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Designated Funds

For the Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Budget</th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS - DESIGNATED FUNDS - BEGINNING</strong></td>
<td>$400,300</td>
<td>$400,300</td>
<td>$208,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>200,471</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>(87,236)</td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorials</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>7,058</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>120,293</td>
<td>125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>152,036</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>190,000</td>
<td>61,387</td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorials</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>98,756</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>265,000</td>
<td>312,179</td>
<td>125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>(165,000)</td>
<td>(191,886)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS - DESIGNATED FUNDS - ENDING</strong></td>
<td>$235,300</td>
<td>$208,414</td>
<td>$208,414</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annual Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

Westwood Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2018

Attending: 173 voting members attended. Church Council President Karoline Pierson reported that there was a quorum (at least 100 members present) and called the meeting to order.

Opening Prayer: Council President Karoline Pierson started the meeting at 9:50 a.m. by welcoming those present and Pastor Jason Van Hunnik led an opening prayer.

Secretary’s Report: Council Member Kristi Taft addressed the minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Congregation, copies of which were provided within the Annual Report to meeting participants. She asked if attendees would like the minutes to be read aloud or had any corrections. There were no such requests or corrections noted. President Pierson asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made and seconded, and the motion was passed.

Treasurer’s Report:
1. Previous Year Financial Report
   Treasurer James Behnke thanked the congregation for their faithful stewardship in supporting God’s mission at Westwood. He then referred to the Treasurer’s Report found in the 2017 Annual Report which was made available to participants. James provided a brief overview of the report, pointing out that the Town Meeting had been held the previous Sunday where Q & A and discussion took place. He asked for a motion to approve the report. A motion was made and seconded, and the motion passed.

2. Current Year Proposed Budget
   President Pierson introduced Dave Hill, Chair of the Financial Management Advisory Group. Dave highlighted key points of the 2018 budget. After reviewing the budget, President Pierson asked for a motion to approve the budget. A motion was made and seconded, and the motion passed.

Ministry Minute:
Aysha Wanless and her daughters provided highlights about their experience at Westwood as new members. They joined the congregation just two weeks ago.

Nominations Report and Elections:
Diane Hoffstedt, Nominations Team member thanked members of the committee and presented the following slate of candidates for Church Council and Nominations Team:
DRAFT

1. Officers and Council
   - Secretary (4-year term): Wanda Nightengale
2. Council Members-Al-Large (3-year term): Laura Smith, Jim Fiebelkorn
3. Nominations Team (for 1\textsuperscript{st} of 2 one-year terms):
   - Karin Renier, Jane Severson Kelly, Phil Coen-Pesch
4. Nominations Team (for 2\textsuperscript{nd} one-year term):
   - Dave Guenzel, Diane Hoffstedt, Erica McDougall, Betsy Zimmerman

Diane moved that “the slate of nominees as presented by the Nominations Team be accepted and the individuals on that slate be elected to the positions indicated and for the terms stated”.

President Pierson asked if there were any nominations from the floor for these positions. Hearing none, she declared the nominations closed and asked for approval. The motion was made and seconded, and the motion passed.

Foundation Report:
Pastor Tania introduced Memorial Foundation incoming President Marcy Yarger, who delivered the Foundation Report. The WLMF continues to thrive, grow and support Westwood and its many programs through gifts and grants. The Foundation Annual Report was made available.

Council listening:
President-Elect Chris Hentges provided highlights about some specific times of listening the Council will be doing in 2018.

Westwood Roadmap:
President Pierson presented the Westwood Roadmap for the next few years, looking towards the “ventures of which we cannot see the ending…”

Senior Pastor’s Report: Pastor Tania Haber
Pastor Tania shared words of thanks for 15 years of ministry at Westwood and this congregation and staff. This year 7 new staff were brought on, the Special Ask over the summer exceeded its goal (bringing on Pastor Miriam, funding the new sanctuary screen and paying off the short-term debt), and the Shared Leadership Model for staffing was explained, which includes Pastor Jason’s move from Associate to Executive Pastor. See details in Annual Report.

New Business:
President Pierson thanked outgoing Council members. She then asked whether there was any further new business, comments or discussion items. Hearing none, she entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. A closing prayer concluded the meeting.
Audit Committee Report

July 16, 2018

Financial Management Advisory Committee of the
Westwood Lutheran Church for
Westwood Lutheran Church Council

We have performed certain procedures on the Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2017 and the related Statements of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances of Westwood Lutheran Church for the year then ended. The financial statements are the responsibility of the church’s management. Our responsibility is to perform the procedures and review the accounts and records, and report our findings to the Council.

We have conducted our procedures in accordance with the ELCA Congregational Audit Guide, which are not in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Our procedures included tests of the nature and to the extent we considered necessary to reach our conclusions and to conform to Westwood policy. The scope of the procedures followed the three-year cycle audit plan, which examines all aspects of the church in varying levels of detail within a three-year cycle. The procedures were not designed on a basis to detect fraud and were performed in our volunteer capacity as members of the audit committee.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Church Council and church management. It should not be used for any other purpose. It does not constitute an opinion on the financial statements.

Sincerely,
Westwood Lutheran Church Audit Committee

Andrew Nymo

Memorials

Robert Nelson
Lois (Aggie) Sandum
Viola Bower
Ruth Berg
Viola Thompson
John Nightengale
Carol Pyeatt
David Thomas
Walter Ortman

Elaine Coleman
Bruce Cameron
Amanda Lillard
Carole Swenson
Darlene Mickelson
Jeffery Otos
Charles (Bud) Graham
Arthur Amundson
Jean Almquist
2019 is gearing up to be another great year! We are looking forward to the spring “All Are Welcome” construction project, which will strengthen our program’s security. We are humbled by our community’s generosity as we work towards raising funds for this project.

A special thanks to Brooks Anderson, Sarah Seehusen, Tess Kinsgbury, and Sarah Whiting for serving on the WECC Advisory Team and to the team of parents who are prepared to help support the program with additional fundraising efforts!

In 2018 we served approximately 90 children each day and fostered their growth and development through caring, educational, Christ-filled experiences. We also provided two families with long-term scholarships, which enabled two young children with an opportunity to participate in our full-day program. In addition, we have maintained our national accreditation status through NAEYC and our 4-Star Parent Aware rating with the state of MN. We also successfully renewed our Nature Explore certification, continued to work closely with our local ELEA group, and sought out quarterly donations for STEP. Rich and meaningful professional development opportunities keep our 27 highly trained educators involved with state and national conferences and our program continues to be a source of inspiration to educators interested in embracing a progressive curriculum model. Furthermore, our enrollment is very healthy and we are blessed with an abundance of referrals from our families, friends, and WLC community members!

Thank you for continuing to support this very special ministry!

Blessings,
Kellee Nelson, Director

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Music Ministries Report
Greetings from Music Ministries!

As 2019 begins, we could not be more excited! We are incredibly fortunate to have music being made in our church almost every day of the week. For that, we give God thanks! Below are two highlights for the new year.

First is the involvement of a children’s choir in worship. Music time is now part of The Message and occurs after Messy Worship. This has given all children a chance to participate in music and continues to grow in popularity. Watch for a children’s choir to continually participate in worship with increasing frequency as the year unfolds.

Second is Westwood’s 75th Anniversary Celebration on October 5th and 6th. One of the many highlights of the weekend is a special piece of music being written by noted composer Ralph Johnson, childhood member and lifelong friend of the congregation. His work, which incorporates Westwood’s vast musical styles, will be premiered at the afternoon concert on October 6th and you are invited to sing as part of the special choir being formed to help premiere the piece. Please contact Andrew if you are interested!

Thank you for all you do to keep Westwood a thriving place to play and sing praises to God! Keep making a joyful noise!

Andrew, Elsa, Em, and Alanna

Outreach Report

2018 was another year filled with opportunities for Westwood to live out its collective vocation through many Outreach relationships and ministry activities. Here are just few of the highlights of what happened in 2018.

- $158,200 from the Westwood faith giving budget and other donations were used to facilitate and support a number of ministry opportunities. Some of the largest amounts were sent to the Minneapolis Area Synod, STEP, and Redeemer Lutheran Church as well as internally for the Westwood Community Meal.

- After several years, a group of 13 Westwood members travelled to Arusha Road Lutheran Church in Dodoma, Tanzania to renew, expand, and deepen our partnership. We look forward to a delegation from Arusha Road visiting us in the spring of 2019.

- Connect the Dots, (the Westwood initiated non-profit dedicated to connecting underemployed folks from our community to livable wage jobs) merged with UpWorks who was working toward similar goals in other parts of the metro. We believe that this merger will allow us to even better connect mentors from Westwood to support folks working toward a more stable future.

- We were blessed to welcome Ann Kisch to Westwood as our Kitchen Coordinator. In addition to her other work at Westwood and the Westwood Early Childhood Center, she has been a great gift in providing consistent support and stability to our many volunteers and leaders of the Community Meal.

- A new team has been formed to lead Westwood’s dreaming about the upcoming “Prayer of Good Courage” appeal, which will follow the 2019 “All Are Welcome” appeal. Current efforts have focused on exploring affordable housing and a low cost childcare dreams.

I’m very grateful for the leadership of the Outreach Advisory team, which is made up of Nancy Cambronne, Margo Chesley, Marcy Redmond, Shelby Rohrer, and our newest member Chris McMullen.

We look forward to the paths that God will lead us into in 2019.

- Pastor Jason
Children, Youth & Family

Summer Fun at Westwood!

Thank you for your support of our summer ministries and to all who participated in any capacity! Musical Camp in June allowed 25 actors to dance, sing, and perform under the direction Kara Taft and Andrew Paulson. The highlight of the week was a dress rehearsal for friends at Parkshore and two performances of “The Three Trees” during worship. In August we had a week of Vacation Bible School in the morning and Spark Service Camp in the afternoon, partnering with our neighbors at Spirit of Christ for the week. At VBS we welcomed 74 campers, ages 3 years-5th grade, who learned about God’s Good Creation and raised over $820 for ELCA Good Gifts! In the afternoon, 40 K-5th graders joined us for service work around the metro, including Grand-View Park Cemetery, Global Health Ministries, and Habitat for Humanity. What a great summer!

Messy Worship & The Message

Thank you for your continued support of The Message and Messy Worship. The Message includes over 170 children from ages 3 years thru 5th grade! On Sundays, kids actively participate in worship, spend time with their Westwood friends, talk about their faith in relation to the real world, and experience how important they are as members of our Westwood community.

Messy Worship on Wednesdays is another vibrant Westwood family-friendly service. Messy Worship averages 90 in attendance each week, a constantly growing number! This Wednesday community includes many WECC families, busy families with weekend commitments, and families worshiping with their toddlers, preschoolers, elementary kids, and grandparents!

The 5th Westwood U catalog was a smashing success!

We had 137 registrants (not including Sunday Morning Westwood U) and nearly 60 of those were congregation members. This is a wonderful improvement over past congregational registrations.

Westwood U is truly becoming the relational, hands-on confirmation and congregational learning model we dreamed of! Thank you for your commitment to lifelong faith formation and vocation-centered learning. Whether you have or have not registered for a course yet, you should know that the courses will no longer be a part of a stand-alone catalog, instead the will be included in the Celebration starting NOW!

In June 2018, 42 youth and adults traveled to Houston TX for the ELCA Youth Gathering. The theme was “This Changes Everything” and wow was it impactful! The speakers, activities, service opportunities, accommodations, and groups were stellar from beginning to end! The kids are still talking about their experiences from Houston, and it’s sure to be at the forefront of their memories for years to come! Thank you for your support of our youth and their faith journeys!
As we explore being artisans of the common good this year, part of our task is to look at ways that our common good is suffering in our world today and where we can learn and listen. This Lent, we will be taking a first step in that learning and listening to be better neighbors to one another around the topic of race. This is the beginning of a longer journey, and we will be emphasizing the word, “conversation”—this is an opportunity for us to listen, to have grace for one another, to not have all the answers, and to begin working for a healthier vision around race in our country together, especially from the perspective of our faith.

**Sunday's**

During worship, we will preach on Jesus’ parables, listening to stories about the new kingdom that Jesus envisioned.

Between services, there will be a 6-session education series led by Lutheran scholar and professor Darrell Jodock, as well as historians Sarah Ruble, Bill Green, and Nate Van Yperen.

**Wednesday's**

Evening services at 6:30 PM will feature interview sermons with Pastor Babette Chatman of Redeemer Lutheran, Equity Coach Lee-Ann Stephens of St. Louis Park Public Schools, Pastor Paul Slack of New Creation Church, and Director for Inclusion and Equity, Richard Webb of Redeemer Lutheran, who will be sharing stories of their journeys around race and faith.

* March 31-April 3, Pastor Jason will be leading a trip to Atlanta, GA and Montgomery, AL to visit the Civil Rights Museum and the National Lynching Memorial and Legacy Museum.

* Following our Lenten series, we will work with Director for Inclusion and Equity, Richard Webb, from our partner congregation Redeemer Lutheran, and he will walk alongside us in a process of deepening this conversation around race as a congregation.