

Pastor's Annual Report 2018

"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

These words of introduction by Paul to the Corinthians reflect much of my own feelings. I am grateful to have spent this past year as your pastor. I am grateful for the love, care, and openness you have shown. Thank you.

Well, the year started off with a crazy idea--to visit every member of the congregation. While I was not able to visit everyone, I was able to visit over 130 households, plus some visits held in my office. This really helped me get to know you and you to know me. Thanks to the team of people who helped coordinate these visits--Nancy Bourget, Darrin Falk, Dan Gonstead, Arla Graff, Jerry Hoeflein, Barb Meser, and Dan Tye. If I forgot anyone, I ask for your forgiveness.

The staff at Christ Lutheran makes a wonderful team. I'm grateful for the gifts that Josie, Jane, and Tom bring this place. I'm grateful for Dick and Tricia, our treasurers, who help us understand the column of numbers.

The rhythm of the church goes on with worship, education, visitation, fellowship, outreach and more. Last spring "The Wonder Wall" went up in the narthex. It was just a large piece of paper taped to the wall with the words "I wonder . . .". You were invited to share your ideas and dreams for the ministry of Christ Lutheran. Here are some of the ones already being implemented:

- New lighting in the sanctuary. (This will be done within the next few weeks.)
- We asked, "What does our community need and how can we respond?" and last fall we started our after-school program called 'The Spot,' responding to a need identified in conversation with Wakanda Elementary.
- The introduction of new music in worship.
- Working with the other ELCA churches in town.
- The conversation to start the Stephen Ministry.
- The removal of the cement circle in the narthex.

There are also those needs we are in the beginning stages of addressing:

- Updated technology in the sanctuary--sound system and projection system.
- Updating and renovating the narthex area to be more welcoming.
- Addressing our signage issues.
- New community action needs.
- Finding ways to reach out to each other and our community.

There are two pages of ideas and dreams. I bet there are more. I pray that we listen to the Spirit to see where God is leading us in the future. The ministry that happens at Christ Lutheran is ours together.

Each day that we are together we are looking toward the future. The shape of the ministry may change but the mission remains the same--to proclaim the love of God through Christ Jesus to our neighbors both near and far.

Once again, I am grateful for you. May God bless our journey together and mold us into the community of faith we are meant to be.

Pastor Randy Skow-Anderson