

**ROSEVILLE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
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ANNUAL REPORT



*A Community
United by Grace*



ROSEVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH 2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

THE 45° TRAVELER – THE INVISIBLE MADE VISIBLE

Lauren J. Wrightsman, Senior Pastor

Just to the west of Roseville Lutheran Church there is a marker that reads:

The forty-fifth parallel of north latitude on the surface of the earth runs through this boulder. It is an east and west line which is exactly one-half the distance between the Equator and North Pole or a distance of 3102 miles each way.

These markers are found throughout the United States, as well as the rest of the world. The forty-fifth parallel runs through the Piazza Statuo in Turin, Italy, the southernmost tip of the Russian city of Krasnodar, inner Mongolia, Hokkaido in northern Japan, the Kuril Islands, and straight through the heart of Roseville Lutheran Church.

Being a wholly imaginary line, visible only on maps, it is understandable if you wonder "what is the importance of this?"

The Minnesota Museum of the Mississippi website explains:

The 45th parallel is an abstract idea, but in many places devotees of the intangible world of latitudes and longitudes have made it visible with physical markers. In small towns and along country highways, the 45° traveler will find simple road signs and elaborate stone markers alerting all passersby to think about how these particular places are connected to the rest of the globe, and by extension to our place in the entire cosmos.

<https://www.mnmuseumofthems.org/45th/index.html>

Did you read what I read? Let me paraphrase what I read.

"Something invisible made visible by devotees, connecting places to the rest of the globe, indeed to the entire cosmos."

Sounds a bit like the Christian witness, doesn't it?

The invisible made visible

This is the moment where we take that which has been promised through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and make it visible to the world through our words, actions and deeds. Which, in turn, connects us to people of all nations, races and creeds.

I see the visible signs of God's power running through and among you, as the members and friends of Roseville Lutheran Church in powerful and meaningful ways.

The invisible made visible...

- in the passion and care of our volunteer tutors at Central Park Elementary school. An invisible love is made visible with patience, laughter and support.
- in the care and keeping of our volunteers on our Prayer Ministry and Care and Visitation teams. An invisible spirit is made visible in the power of companionship and prayer.
- in the work of those who mentor our children and youth. The invisible made visible in acts of companionship, forgiveness and love.
- in our accompaniment with those in need both near and far. The invisible is made visible in a helping hand, a blanket, a dresser, housing, prayer and support.



*Sounds a bit like the
Christian witness, doesn't it?*

Throughout this Annual Report, you will find the many ways in which you make the love of God visible. Through your work as a volunteer, your gifts and your offerings, your prayers and your support we are able to bring hope, healing and peace to people both near and far. Thank you!

In the year ahead, I am eager to see how we continue to make the invisible visible in our love of God and love of our neighbor.

The next time you worship with us and stand on the 45th parallel, consider the ways you are being called by the Holy Spirit to grow, be led and stirred into action.

The invisible is made visible through the power of the Holy Spirit working with, among and through YOU.

May we all become 45° travelers - making the invisible visible. Thanks be to God!

Lauren J. Wrightsman

Lauren J. Wrightsman
Senior Pastor



A PLACE FOR ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

Sara Spohr, Associate Pastor

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

– Mark 10:13-16

In the first century, there was not a very positive attitude about children. They didn't talk about "sweet, innocent children." Children were more likely to be viewed as "spoiled, rotten, undisciplined." Knowing this, it isn't hard to understand why the disciples thought it best to keep the children away from Jesus. But Jesus wanted to see and hold and lay his hands on these children. Jesus touches them. This is no small thing. Every other time the word "touch" is used in the gospel of Mark, it is part of a healing. It is very possible that these children were brought to Jesus because they were sick and in need of his touch for healing. This is not the picture of sweet smiling children coming to Jesus as seen in so many paintings; this is a picture of children with runny noses, puffy eyes, and sad faces. These are God's very own children and Jesus can see what so many others cannot, how very precious they are.

We are challenged as a church to find places for God's children, all of God's children – regardless of age, gender, race or any other way we humans divide ourselves – to see and touch Jesus, to help people find and grow in a relationship with Jesus. I love this story from Mark because it reminds me of my call; to explore ways that God's children can be seen, and touched, and held in the gracious love of God.

In this past year at Roseville Lutheran I have been so inspired by the ways that we as a community are inviting all of God's children to know and experience the grace of Jesus:

- I watch our community collect blankets and build dressers for Bridging, but also tell the story of the children of God who will receive and use those blankets and dressers. God's children are serving and growing at Roseville Lutheran, and God's children in our community of Roseville are being cared for with dignity and love.



We are challenged as a church to find places for God's children – all of God's children – regardless of age, gender, race or any other way we humans divide ourselves

- In May the Our Neighbors and Me team facilitated an evening of shared conversation about differences among generations and races. This conversation was led by a group of students from Roseville Area High School. These diverse students shared deeply and vulnerably with our group. Their words were listened to with care, they were loved as children of God, and everyone in the room was touched by Jesus' grace.



- We are in a time of transition in our youth program. I give thanks for Michael Jordan's years serving our youth and families. He has been a constant supporter of helping students to grow in relationship with each other and God. He has introduced them to God's gracious love in so many ways. His leadership has moved this program forward in really beautiful ways. In August we welcome Audrey Dontje Lindell as our new Director of Youth Ministry. Audrey brings with her many excellent experiences and qualifications, but perhaps our hiring team was most excited about her ability to connect with and care for young people and their families. Look for an opportunity to thank Michael and welcome Audrey.



- We continue to develop and strengthen our relationship with Central Park Elementary. This year we participated in a clothing drive, a technology drive, tutoring, the Sheridan Story backpack program, event volunteers, and gift cards at Christmas. As we continue to be aware of the challenges facing our neighborhood school, we pray that our church will respond like Jesus, opening our arms, seeing, holding, and welcoming these precious children.
- This past year our Lenten theme was about unity. I was so inspired to hear of so many heartfelt and challenging conversations happening around this important theme. How do we continue to open the door and offer God's grace to all of God's children? This is a difficult conversation, but we continue to ask, and pray, and live into this vision we share: A community united by grace.



Jesus invited children to come and be held, healed, and loved. I give thanks for all of the ways that this community of faith called Roseville Lutheran is seeking to be the open arms of Jesus for the children of God. Thanks be to God!

In Good Faith,

Pastor Sara Spohr

TOGETHER WE INCARNATE THE MISSION: LOVE GOD • LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Rolf Olson, Visitation Pastor

Every week RLC cares for each other and God's world – and, in my particular area, that care is seen in visits to our elders. The Care Team, led by Ken Groth, Linda Hetland, and Carol Solie, brings Holy Communion, offers rides to appointments and grocery shopping, and helps with chores which allow our elders to live more comfortably and safely. They visit in private homes as well as in senior residences. At present there are twenty-five people who are visited in this way.

Our Prayer team, led by Pam McCulloch, serves to connect our entire ministry with the movement of the Holy Spirit. I serve as pastoral liaison to both teams.

I appreciate the African proverb that says that every herd of elephants needs the old ones because they know where the water holes are. RLC is blessed with elders who give us a sense of perspective, of history, of where God has moved in the past and may be moving us into the future – where the watering hole of Living Water can be found. Together, we incarnate the RLC mission: *Love God • Love Your Neighbor*.

Although my official title is "visitation pastor" I also lead the Saturday men's breakfast and Bible study, preach on occasion, and assist Pastors Lauren and Sara as requested. It is a privilege to serve Christ at RLC in this way.



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

David Booms, Church Administrator

As the Church Administrator I and my staff support the vision, mission, core values, and all of the various ministries of the church in its day-to-day operations. This is done via our communications team, office staff, facilities team, worship support team, and our hospitality team. I wish to take a moment to specifically thank those that work to make all of the various happenings here at RLC go smoothly: Bruce Pelava – Campus Manager (and his staff), Connie Marchio – Hospitality Manager, and her assistant, Colleen Hopple, Daniel Pederson – Communications Manager, and Trish Clifford – Administrative Assistant. I wish this year to call out a set of volunteers who have helped us in the office, primarily on Fridays, to answer calls, greet walk-ins, do small projects and all the other items large and small that keep us running. They are Mary Ann Bannerman, Linda Eldred, Joan Larson, Pam McCulloch, and Georgia Nygaard. Lastly, to the remaining volunteers (who are just too numerous to list) that have ushered, greeted, set the table, and produced the food for the many services that we have — may the Lord bless you all.

We have just wrapped up the work of the Campus Improvements Task Force. During its tenure they commissioned a full-scale buildings, grounds, and equipment assessment. We have completed the conversion to LED lighting. The roofs on the Worship Center, Activity Center, and the Preschool have been replaced. The windows of the Preschool are in the process of being replaced. We've taken bids on a Landscape master plan. Lastly, we provided a report to council of the items that we believe should be addressed in the near future. Council will be creating a sitting Campus Improvements Committee to carry on the work. They will be supported by the Design Team, the Green Team, and a Landscape Team.

I personally have become the Vice President of the local chapter of the National Association of Church Business Administration. This past May concluded a three-year commitment to being a Confirmation Small Group Leader. It was a rewarding experience that I would recommend.

Since the last annual report and at the time of the writing of this article, 43 new members have joined RLC, 22 members have died and 11 were baptized. In total 2,886 individuals are listed as Members and Friends who call Roseville Lutheran Church their faith home. Blessings, David Booms



pRAISE RLC: AN INVESTMENT FOR GENERATIONS

Sarah Richter, Team Coordinator

The old adage states, "It takes a village to raise a child." Yet, what does it take to build this village and live in community? The RLC "village" nurtures community through our common faith, relationships, shared experiences, challenges and our resources. The investments we make in our faith and community mature at different rates but yield strong returns when properly tended.

As our senior members blessed the graduating high school seniors during the May 19 pRAISE RLC worship service, it was evident that the investments from generations of RLC village members were maturing. RLC members have mentored the youth, taught Sunday School, chaperoned trips and prayed for them. Yet, less obvious in the village's investment is the creation of a safe building for learning and relationship building, the cultivation of a meaningful worship and music program that binds people to culture and tradition, and the leadership who set a vision and establish ministries that inspire people to join the village.

With pride, we now send these youth out into the world, firmly rooted in their faith, tradition, and a sense of community. They are ready to face life challenges, knowing that their RLC village supports them on their journey.

pRAISE RLC: Generations

The spring fundraising campaign, pRAISE RLC, celebrated the impact that RLC has had for generations of members. The campaign raised \$72,012, surpassing the goal of \$60,000, and helped close the fiscal year strong.

More importantly, however, it raised community. The multigenerational campaign planning committee brought energy, creativity, talents and resources together. Each committee member shared their unique RLC village experience with the group and helped set a vision for inspiring others to invest in RLC. In addition, they activated a network of members to share talents and experiences like yoga and lefse classes, beer tasting and barbecues to thank donors and foster relationships.

Each donation made during the pRAISE RLC campaign was an investment in our village, an investment in the shared community we call our "church home." Just as previous generations invested in the space, experiences, relationships and traditions that we value, we, too, make these investments for future generations.

THANK YOU!



OUR FACILITIES ARE STRONG AND VIABLE

Bruce Pelava, Campus Manager

Greetings, and may God's blessings be upon you.

THE FACILITIES STAFF

- Bruce Pelava, Campus Manager.
- Arlen Rystrom, Maintenance Engineer - has served the Congregation for many years.
- Shelton Ingram, Lead Custodian, is a vital part of the day to day functions of the facility.
- Vicki Benoit, one of our newer team members, is our Sunday and evening custodian.
- Greg Saiko, our newest team member, is our evening custodian.

RECAP OF 2018/2019

I began my time with the roofing project that has been completed and I can say that we are once again dry and secure. This was funded by generous designated gifts.

The lower ceiling in the activity center was removed because of water damage and new ceilings were installed. Thanks to K.J. Bach for her help coordinating the removal portion.

The campus underwent a lighting upgrade to all LED lights. Both inside and out. Such a bright idea!

A number of items involving the parking lots have been addressed and corrected. This is a difficult area due to the age of the pavement and the rapid deterioration because of the age.

The Christmas Mural was put up with the help of a very good group of church members who had the experience and knowledge of the past times that it has been done.

- New windows are installed in the preschool through a generous gift.
- Some storage upgrades are being made in the activity center along with new sound and video upgrades.
- There were a number of small security and life safety problems that were addressed and repairs were made to maintain a safe environment for everyone.

I worked with staff and committee members to provide a safe and comfortable environment for all who have come to worship and gather for groups and meetings throughout the year.

We have begun a recycling program that includes new waste receptacles and recycling baskets throughout the building. Please use them according to the markings on the containers. There will be a phase in period for completion of the services.

We have made it a priority to keep the costs as reasonable for all work and services performed this past year.

It was a tough winter with a lot of snow and ice. We had a new service plowing and salting so there were a few glitches but all in all it went well. We did manage to come in under budget for the 2018/2019 season.

In February we once again hosted a month-long shelter for homeless. Thank you for helping!!!

Over the past year we have had a large number of events happen in our facility. There have been youth gatherings, ice cream socials, business organizations, opportunities for education and general interest. Both girl and boy scouts meet, as well as all of the confirmation, and Sunday School programs, Silver sneakers, dance and aerobics classes, Bible studies, and the list goes on. We are blessed to have such a large and beautiful facility readily available for use.

None of these functions listed above would have been possible without the help and generous giving of the members of this congregation. You are the pillars that support the church.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve Roseville Lutheran Church. The staff and volunteers have been very helpful with me getting to know the buildings and history of the church. I look forward to the coming year in service to you and using my abilities to do the work for the service of our LORD.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Pelava
Campus Manager



A Community United by Grace



TOUCHED BY HANDS AND HEARTS

Connie Marchio, Hospitality Manager

The Hospitality Ministry has been fortunate to sustain and grow. As we move forward, we have succeeded to stay within our budget and keep cost down.

Hospitality has been able to retain our past clients and have added more to our events list. I am in a unique situation as I can customize each event to fit our clients. The success of hospitality is only achievable by the volunteers that I work with side by side. They are priceless and I could not achieve the level of service that we provide, without them. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

You may have noticed we have gone green! All our dinnerware products are now recycled and compostable, and we are working to compost our leftover food. This presents an increase in cost, but we felt it needed to happen. This change is good for the environment and leaves a better footprint for our children and grandchildren.

It has been a pleasure to serve Roseville Lutheran Church and the surrounding community this past year. I am looking forward to the upcoming year with great anticipation. – *Sempri famiglia* (always family)!

Lillian



NEW LAY LEADERS FOR 2019-20

Elected on Sunday, June 23

These members of RLC were elected to lay leadership roles at our congregational meeting on June 23, and begin their service on September 1. As a way to introduce these candidates to you, we asked them to reflect on how they hope to show love for God and neighbors through their upcoming leadership roles.

Lillian Wassell – Chair, Youth & Family Ministry Team

I hope to show the love and passion that our youth have for Christ and for this community.

Carol Solie – Nominating Committee

As a member of the Nominating Committee I hope to seek out candidates that will best serve RLC and our neighbors.

Jake Von De Linde – Nominating Committee

I hope to connect with the RLC community by finding new and experienced lay leaders to help serve our church.

Dave Tetzlaff – Mission & Outreach

I hope to increase the great work RLC is doing with Central Park Elementary, Keystone Community Services, FMSC, Project Home and Bridging. RLC's partnership with these community groups, emphasizes the ways we as an RLC community can show God's love and grace.

Kris Olsen – Mission & Outreach

One objective of Mission and Outreach is have more RLC members/friends be inspired to engage in volunteer activities and giving opportunities. As a Mission and Outreach leader I see my role as helping achieve this goal. We already have many great people leading and participating in programs like Project Home, Feed My Starving Children and many others. It is my hope that I show love for our neighbor by inspiring more people to be involved in small or big ways.

Alicia Sandy – Mission & Outreach

Working with the Mission and Outreach team will give me a chance to help motivate others to unlock their kindness potential! We all want to do good deeds and help others in some capacity; I hope to help people find just the right niche in which to do that.

Heather Awad – Council Member

We don't have a lot of diversity in our church, but I hope to show love for God and my neighbor by continuing to keep our church as an inclusive space and community. I would like to see us grow to become even more welcoming of our local neighbors.

Carrie Hefte Hanton – Council Member

I will listen. There are members on the Council with many more years of RLC history than I have and so I first need to listen in order to learn and understand. Only then will I be able to add to the conversation. I'm hopeful that being on the board of Operation Bootstrap Africa for nine years has honed my board member skill of listening so that I will be an asset to the RLC board.

Scott Roste – Council Member

To help make the best use of our resources in serving our community and finding new, creative ways to draw others into our community of faith.

Joe Zeigler – Council Vice President

As a member of the executive council, I hope to help enable opportunities for continued outreach in pursuit of the RLC vision.



alicia



heather



carrie



scott



joe

carol



jake



dave



kris



THROUGH LOVE AND COMMITMENT

John Shardlow, RLC Congregational President

2018-19 was a remarkable year in the life of Roseville Lutheran Church. The persistence and dedication of our staff and members have resulted in turning points in many areas of our mission. Excellent worship planning, preaching, and education have provided wonderful opportunities for worship, service, and growth.

For many years, we have been aware of the ways our surrounding community has been changing. To be perfectly honest, it hasn't always been immediately obvious what we were being called to do in response to those changes. I am proud of the fact that we stuck to those difficult conversations and are guided by our vision to "Love God, Love Your Neighbor," and that through this process new ideas have started to emerge.

Our Mission and Outreach Task Force and Committee has refocused our commitments. Our members with close ties to the Roseville Area Schools presented opportunities for our members to serve as tutors at Central Park Elementary, to provide needed food in backpacks, and to paint classrooms. We also welcomed young, courageous students of color from Roseville Area High School into our church to deepen our understanding of the pervasiveness of racism in our community.

RLC's Project Home ministry not only provided shelter and support for families experiencing temporary homelessness, it also led to a community-wide conversation, an increase in awareness, and a change in City policy. Our members have fed the hungry through Loaves & Fishes, volunteered and built dressers for Bridging, and supported local food shelves. RLC also gave another great contribution of time and money to Feed My Starving Children, plus many more endeavors. The *Our Neighbors and Me* Committee has led the education of our community regarding social justice, white privilege and racism. I am proud of how the mission of this church has deepened and grown – not in a boastful way, but rather with a sense of gratitude and respect for the staff and members of RLC.

None of this could have happened without the love and commitment of a wonderful and dedicated staff and member volunteers. I cannot remember a time when there has been such a high level of engagement throughout all of our areas of ministry. I also can't remember when we ended our fiscal year with a surplus! Coincidence? I know it isn't. Thank you. May God bless you, and may God bless Roseville Lutheran Church.

A SPIRIT OF LOVE AND GENEROSITY

Michael Dolan, President-Elect

The Roseville Lutheran Church budget can often be a challenge to produce for an upcoming year. As with most households, yours and mine, expenses tend to increase over time. However, while most of us have fairly consistent income, RLC has to estimate the amount of our receipts, the clear majority of which include the general offering and supplemental asks. While a shortfall is always a concern, I am happy to tell you we have made great progress in closing the gap between our receipts and expenses. Our general offering increased by \$73,000 from the 2017-18 fiscal year to the 2018-19 fiscal year.

In this spirit of love and generosity, it is my pleasure to present a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year of 2019-20. Through your amazing support, we can continue to support our truly life changing Ministries. The budget supporting these Ministries is presented in narrative fashion on these pages, along with a table of the proposed budget, comparing the proposed budget to that from the last fiscal year. Our finance staff, led by Laurel Hofeldt, looks at trends in both recent year offering amounts and expenses to help us produce a budget. A conservative approach is used when estimating our giving expectations. Your support of the general offering, as well as fall and spring campaigns, has improved our financial picture significantly. More of you are becoming sustaining givers to the church. Many more have shown how you value our Ministries by giving more monthly and stepping up to give during our Mission Advancement fundraising efforts. At the same time, the church staff has also been very careful with spending needs and finding more efficiencies in our church utilities. A small cost of living increase is included in the budget for our staff, in line with Saint Paul Area Synod recommendations.

We continue to show our generosity together in giving our time, talents and treasure to our RLC ministries, not as an obligation but as a celebration of our Love of God and our Neighbor. I am so grateful to our staff, our diligent Council, Ministry teams and to my fellow congregants for your support of our truly special church. Budget concerns will always be with us, but I see the beginnings of a more sustained, streamlined process. Progress is being made! Our coordination with members and an extraordinary staff is paying off. May God continue to spread His love in us to fulfill our Ministries together. There is much work to be done but I have faith in our loving God and all of you.



THE JOY OF GENEROSITY

Laurel Hofeldt, Director of Finance and Data

Generosity is the reflection of what we have personally come to know about Jesus.

– Louie Giglio

What word would you use to describe the most generous person you know? For me, that word would be JOYFUL! Those who give to others, whether by taking the time to listen, using their skills and abilities to help with a project or need, or financially supporting a specific ministry or cause, all exude great joy. It lights up the room they are in and the faces of those around them. Their joy is contagious!

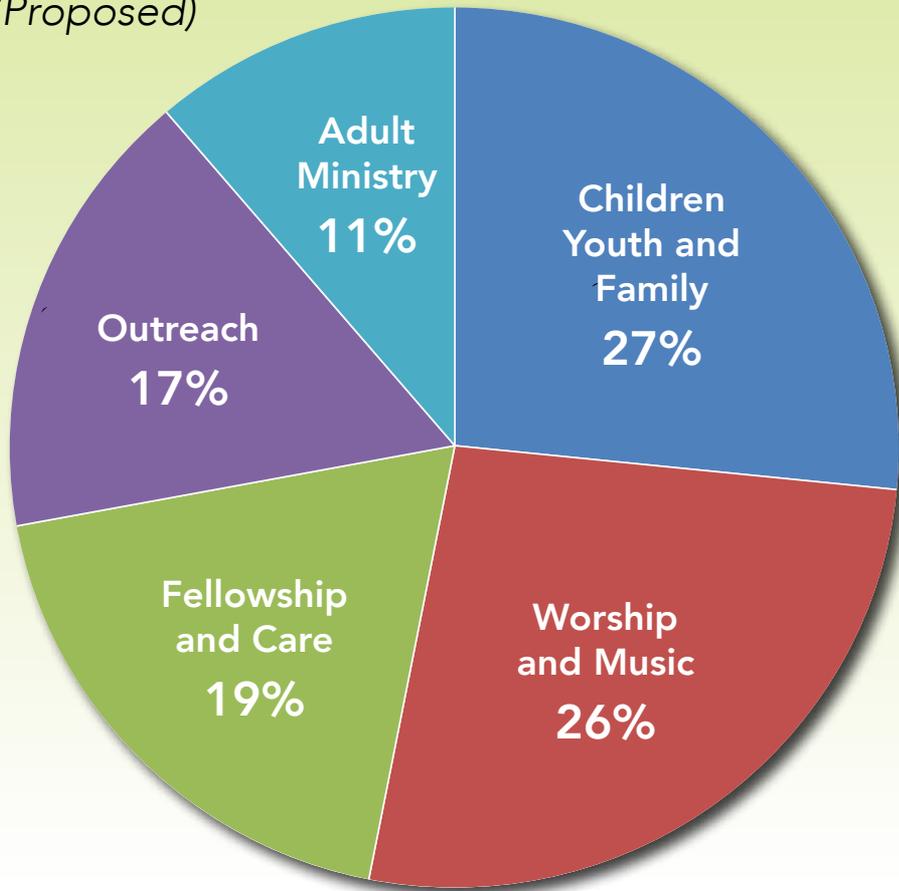
As RLC's Director of Finance, I have the privilege of experiencing the generosity of others on a daily basis. It shows up in the consistent and faithful ways our church family volunteers, prays for and financially supports the ministries within this church, within the Roseville community and throughout the world.

In the past year, joyful generosity showed up in those who helped pack and pay for 750,000 meals to feed hungry children around the world. It showed up in the faces of the children and youth who attended Camp Hiawatha, served in Martin, Slovakia, and helped build dressers for our neighbors moving out of homelessness and into homes in the community. It showed up in the faces of the couple who walked into my office and each handed me a \$500 check to meet the Monday *pRAISE RLC* challenge for twenty \$500 gifts to unlock \$5,000 in matching gifts. It showed up in the smile of the 9th grade newly confirmed member who ran into my office in the final minutes of the spring fundraiser to deliver the 100th gift of the day and complete the 100-gift challenge to *pRAISE RLC*.

How would you describe the most generous person you know?



RLC 2019-2020 Ministry Budget: \$1,699,000
(Proposed)

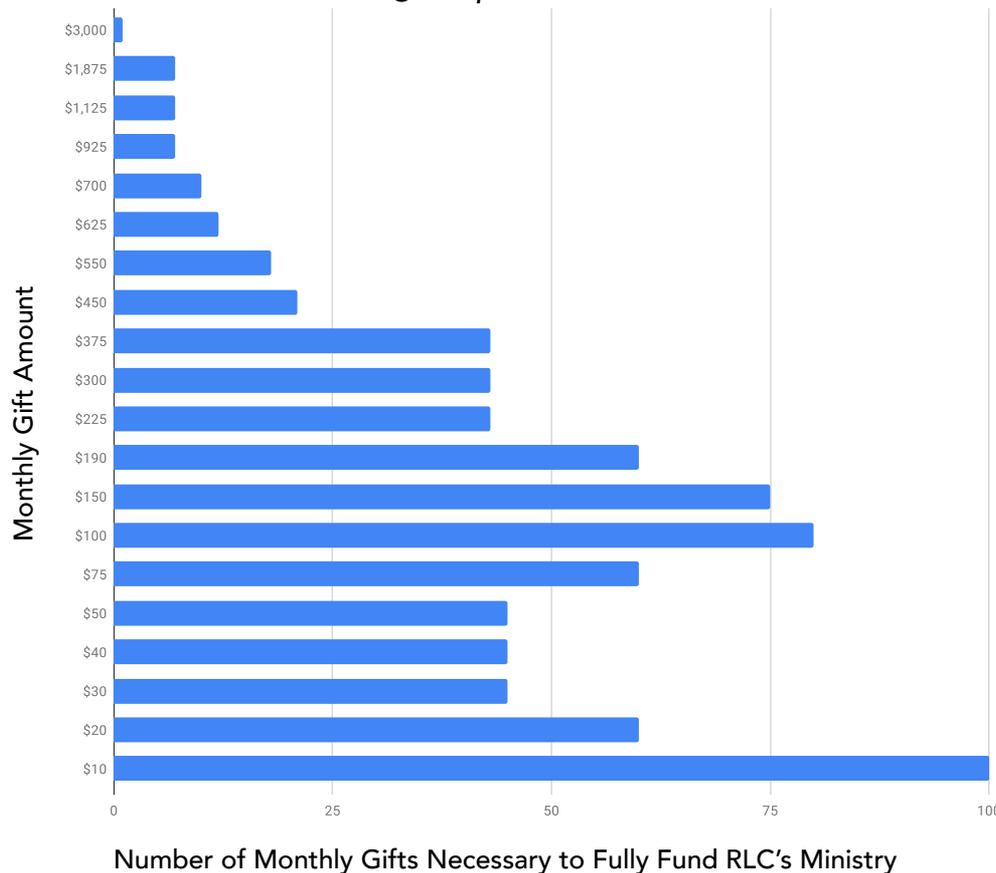


Roseville Lutheran Church Proposed Budget

	2018-2019 Budget	2019-2020 Proposed
RECEIPTS		
General Offering	1,327,500	1,388,500
Spring Fundraiser	-0-	50,000
Special Asks to Budget	148,250	57,000
Building Fund	61,000	61,000
Hospitality	57,000	60,000
Building Fees	20,000	22,000
Other Receipts	75,500	60,500
	1,689,250	1,699,000
EXPENSES		
Salaries	935,200	946,078
Benefits	222,400	203,585
Mission and Outreach	79,600	83,220
Hospitality	51,000	71,000
All Other Ministries	62,250	58,000
Business Operations	139,300	142,817
Property and Building	199,500	194,300
	1,689,250	1,699,000

ADVANCING OUR MISSION

Giving Graph for 2019-20



ADVANCING OUR MISSION IN 2019-20

How Will We Get There?

As we continue to live out our vision and mission to "Love God. Love your neighbor. A community united by grace" we are excited about what the future holds for us!

As you consider the proposed budget (shown above), please know that every gift is essential for the continued support and growth of our mission and ministry.

The graph to the left (Advancing Our Mission) indicates a model of the number of monthly gifts and pledges that are necessary to fully fund RLC's ministry. As you look at this, prayerfully consider the gifts that you and/or your family give to support our shared ministry. Please consider your present support and how you may be able to either begin a commitment to RLC's mission, or step up your giving.

We can't advance our mission without you! As a ministry of the people of God for the people of God, we rely on all gifts, both large and small to shape, transform, and empower people of all ages.

Join us on Sunday, October 13 for a special 10:00 am **ONE Worship** as we celebrate "God of All: Living in Community Together." We will be receiving Intents to Give during this worship celebration. Look for more information about ways you can support and advance our mission in the weeks ahead.

Thank you for your gifts, support, time and talent! I am excited for where the Holy Spirit is leading this community of faith!

Blessings,
Pastor Lauren J. Wrightsman



CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILY

Through weekly programs, we educate our children and youth about what it means to lead a Christian life which invites us to love God and our neighbor. We equip our families and leaders to further deepen their understanding of how to live this out within our community. We empower all ages to show their love through service to their neighbors both near and far in all of our trips, camps, and events.

- Our Youth Leadership team and youth leadership in Cornerstone helps build leadership skills, in addition to sharing their faith with others.
- Almost 400 children, youth, and adult leaders participated in a summer camp or trip, growing in fellowship and deepening their faith
- Serve Sundays offer children, youth, and adults from the congregation the opportunity to share their time to help others

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The life and energy of the Holy Spirit is at work in the ways in which we gather together to give God our worship and praise. We meet weekly to hear the word on Sunday mornings during worship at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. The variety of musical offerings at these services help us to live out our calling to continue to be a "community united by grace." Over the past year we have:

- begun a Wednesday evening Advent worship
- continued our Wednesday evening Lenten worship
- introduced a summer evening worship on Wednesday evenings

Our worship center has also been a place of performance for the Minnesota Orchestra, Wartburg and Luther College choirs, Roseville Area high school, Vocal Essence, and many more community groups.



FELLOWSHIP AND CARE

Fellowship is a warm handshake, a hot cup of coffee, a blessing, or in serving the Lord's meal. In the early church "they broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all people." (Acts 2:46-47).

We strive to make every visitor, member, or guest feel they are special and belong here. Our Roseville Lutheran family also includes people who would

love to attend church, visit with church friends, and hear their pastor, but may be experiencing health issues that keep them at home. One meaningful way we like to keep these friends connected is by sending a CD of the current week's 9:00 service so they can continue to worship with us. They also receive the accompanying bulletin and a fun activity page. What a joy it was when one of our members called to thank us, saying, "I feel I am a part of Roseville Lutheran Church!"

OUTREACH

It has been another exciting year with the many partnerships with local groups and RLC. As the Mission and Outreach Team created a more local focus, we strengthened our partnerships with these partners. Through your gifts of time and funds, the Mission and Outreach team was able to work with these local partners.

- Central Park Elementary - August clean-up day, Sheridan Story on Fridays, financial support for technology, and the tutoring program
- Bridging - provide dressers for families transitioning out of homelessness
- Keystone - food shelf and social support partner
- Project Home - provide emergency shelter for families facing homelessness in February
- Feed My Starving Children - raised \$22,000 and helped pack 762,048 meals



ADULT MINISTRY

Adult Ministry reaches out to people both young and old, single or families, during the week or during the weekend. From the Pastor's Bible Study on Wednesday mornings, to the Adult Education classes on Sunday mornings, there is a calling to continue to grow and develop our understanding of what it means to be claimed and called, gathered and sent. We are fortunate to have a rich connection

with Luther Seminary and frequently host guest speakers from the area.

There has also been education around:

- Race and justice
- Legacy gifts and wills
- Parenting of teens and children

We are looking forward to the year ahead!

MISSION AND OUTREACH

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

– Matthew 28:19

It has been another exciting year with the many partnerships with the Mission and Outreach Team at RLC. As we created more local focus, we strengthened our partnerships with great events.

BRIDGING

RLC held our annual Dresser Build in January 2019. Through your giving and support, RLC was able to come together to build 50 dressers, wrap 125 towel bundles, donate new blankets and make 60 tie blankets. RLC will continue our annual Bridging event in January 2020.

PROJECT HOME

RLC hosted the Project Home guests this past February. RLC members really welcomed and supported our guests, who are in critical need of housing support as they work toward getting out of homelessness. Look for Project Home in February 2020.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

This was another successful year. Jen Bergman and Kathy Miller led the team as RLC raised \$22,000 for the meals. Through our partnership with Incarnation Church, we packed 762,048 meals for starving children throughout the world.

KEYSTONE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Keystone is our local food shelf and social support for those in our community requiring assistance. In addition to the coins from RLC offerings, RLC held 2 food drives during Thanksgiving to Christmas, and the March Minnesota Food share month. Keystone has been a wonderful partner that assists those experiencing financial strains and needs in our community.

*** How Roseville Lutheran Church is Partnering With Keystone ***

ROSEVILLE ANGEL FUND

In 2018, Roseville Lutheran Church gave \$5,500 to the Roseville Angel Fund. The fund assisted 11 families with a total of \$6,135 who were at risk of losing their housing or to move from homelessness to stability. One family was Jeanine and Dave and their two daughters. Both parents had their work hours reduced—Dave due to health issues that kept him from doing some parts of his job and Jeanine due to overstaffing. The family fell behind on rent and were facing an eviction. With help through the Roseville Angel Fund and another community funder, the family was able to catch up on rent and avoid eviction and slipping into homelessness.

EMERGENCY FOOD

Last year, Keystone Community Services distributed over 2.3 million pounds of food to our neighbors in need. This work isn't possible without the generosity of community donors. Roseville Lutheran Church gave 2,145 pounds of food and \$4,766.12 to support these services.

This generosity makes it possible for families like Sarah's to have the food they need. Sarah has four children, between one and 12 years old. Her father (Richard) lives with her, as well as another family friend and her child. Sarah has a decent job, and is also the personal caregiver for the family friend, who is paralyzed from the waist down. With the government shut-down halting Sarah's income for over a month, and increased medical needs for the family friend, Sarah's bank account was empty and she still needed food for her family. She knew between the family friend and the small children she wouldn't be able to pack everyone up in the truck and go to the foodshelf, so she looked up the Keystone Foodmobile online, and emailed the manager.

The manager was out on a stop with the Foodmobile nearby and was able to respond immediately, so she quickly sent her father Richard over to shop for the family. It took Richard two trips to load up all the bags of free groceries into the truck. Richard kept saying how great the Foodmobile was, how easy it was to shop and what great choices there were. He knew the kids would love the shredded pork, and with the rice, beans, and tortilla chips, it was going to be taco night.

Sarah later emailed to say what a blessing the Foodmobile was, and how between the government shutdown and the extra bodies in her household, she didn't know how she would have gotten through.

– Christine Pulvers, Keystone Community Services

CENTRAL PARK ELEMENTARY

RLC is partnering with Central Park Elementary in many ways throughout the school year. RLC volunteers assisted with clean up inside and outside of the school this last August. RLC gave financial support to Central Park for technology support for teachers and programs.

SHERIDAN STORY

Every Friday, RLC volunteers packed food into the backpacks of those with hunger insecurity at Central Park.

TUTORS AT CENTRAL PARK ELEMENTARY

25 RLC members were part of the tutoring program – for direct support to students needing educational assistance for their class work.

It is through your gifts that RLC can support local partners with our time, talents, and treasures. The Mission and Outreach team will continue to focus events and giving towards local partners that serve in our community.

While your financial gifts are necessary, there are tremendous opportunities for each of us to grow in our Faith and Service to the Lord. I encourage every member to seek a ministry area they can personally be involved with in our 2019-20 church year.

Yours in Christ,
David Tetzlaff
Chair – Mission and Outreach Team

VISION

• LOVE GOD •
LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR

MISSION

COMMUNITY
UNITED
BY GRACE

OUR NEIGHBORS AND ME

The ONAM Leadership Team consists of Pastor Sara Spohr, Jake Von DeLinde, Dot Probst, Elaine Sime, Alice Neve, Leon Neve, Heather Awad, Pastor Dick Carlson, and Marilyn Shardlow.



Sharing our passion for racial justice, the ONAM team chose “Action is Faith” as our focus for the 2018-19 year. We challenged each other and our fellow RLC church members to grow in awareness of privilege and systemic racism through book study groups, group discussions and guest presentations. As we all transitioned through levels of self-awareness, we entered the process of becoming more receptive to and accepting of our cultural, racial, ethnic and social differences. We grew in faith and saw the need for personal and collective action.

Through book groups RLC members gained knowledge of the structure of our American society, how it benefits white people and how it silently disadvantages and oppresses those who are not white. We also gained insights into our Christian faith and into the hearts of RLC members who participated in ONAM activities, as we became more knowledgeable about our fellow neighbors in our local, national and global communities.

Books read and discussed were “The Hate U Give” led by Marilyn Shardlow and Sara Mohn and “Reconciling All Things,” a book about God’s reconciliation with us, led by Pastor Dick Carlson. Elaine Sime also led a book discussion group for Christian Life called, “American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America” which explored the history of our country and why it is regionally unique and has divergent belief systems.

Guest speakers were Rev. Dr. Karen McKinney of Bethel University who gave well-attended presentations on “White Privilege” and “White Fragility” during the Sunday Adult Education hour. Dr. Paul Gardner, Political Science Professor Emeritus of Luther College, spoke to us about connecting with others who believe differently than we do during his presentation of “Talking Across the Political Divide.” The Karen Organization of Minnesota (KOM) gave a presentation during the 10:10 hour also. They taught us about the Karen history and their lives in Burma and Thailand living in refugee camps, their immigration to Minnesota, their culture and their food and their lives today as members of our local communities and our schools. Several Karen students at Central Park School are taught by RLC tutors, so this was especially interesting to those who tutor students there. Dot Probst, also a member of the Design Team, organized a weaving demonstration by the Karen Organization of Minnesota. The Design Team also displayed the Karen weaving cooperative’s works, and several were bought by RLC members.

ONAM leaders frequently reflect on the growing diversity of the Roseville School district and seek to connect with local schools in a variety of ways. Jake VonDeLinde and Pastor Sara Spohr were instrumental in inviting Roseville Area High School “Leaders in Training” to our church. These RAHS students of color led an Intentional Social Interaction conversation called “Tearing Down Walls: Bridging Gaps Across Differences,” an event that was attended by more than 40 RLC members. ONAM member Leon Neve has been working with Central Park for many years and keeps us apprised about the opportunities there for Roseville Lutheran to offer resources.

A group of ONAM members, along with Pastor Spohr, attended the retreat on “Waking Up White” at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church. The author of the book of the same name presented information about white privilege, and there was discussion time for each of the church groups to discuss the relevance of this concept in their congregations.

We are hopeful that everyone who participated in ONAM activities enjoyed these events and came away with a deeper sense that “Action is Faith,” living that idea out in their lives with heightened awareness within their workplaces, their homes, and their neighborhoods.

ADULT EDUCATION

In reviewing the past year, a central theme emerged – “growing in faith” together within the larger community of faith.

In the month of November, 2018, the guest presenters were Anna Marsh, who at the time was the Administrative Assistant to Bishop Lull at the St. Paul Synod office, and Ryan Higgins who is a teacher at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. Both Anna Marsh and Ryan Higgins are PhD candidates in Hebrew Bible at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New, N.Y.

Adult Ed participants learned that Jewish and Christian communities share a lot of sacred text. They reminded us that the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament) makes up $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Christian Bible; however, there are many differences in how the Bible functions for each of us. We learned how Jewish and Christian communities read and understand the Bible and how we are similar and how we differ. Our guest presenters read shared stories from both perspectives of the Jewish Bible and the Christian Bible and how the differing ideas and approaches to studying the Bible affect our faith and life.

Another story of “growing in faith,” was exemplified with Deanna Thompson, a Professor of Religion at Hamline University. Professor Thompson has been living with the diagnosis of Stage IV cancer for the past ten years. She describes the disease cancer as trauma to the body. Deanna Thompson’s overall theme was learning to live with hope despite the trauma. Deanna emphasizes that it is in accepting the trauma that one can be open to hope.

This year we have had a variety of programs that have enhanced our knowledge of the Bible while increasing our faith in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Each presenter has had a special message to share with us that has nourished and enhanced our faith. Several of our presenters are Professors at Luther Seminary –Dr. Jim Boyce, Dr. Mark Throntveit, Dr. Mary Jane Haemig and Dr. Karoline Lewis. Other presenters are from within the community helping us to grow in faith as we learn more about our neighbor and still others are individuals from within Roseville Lutheran Church including Pastors Lauren Wrightsman, Sara Spohr and Rolf Olson.

LIFE MINISTRIES

Life Ministries Team has tried to make all of our events joyful, peaceful, and fun. We follow a Christian theme to invite everyone to be involved, make new friends, and reconnect with old friends.

This past year our events included: Swing Dance, Bingo Night, Coffee and Painting, Hoppin’ Helpers, Hymn Sing at Ol’ Mexico, and Progressive Dinners. We hope that everyone had an enjoyable time and would come to our future events, too.

Our Valentine-themed Swing Dance was exciting and colorful. The evening invited dancers of all ages from teens to over 90 years of age! Friends from all over the neighborhood came to enjoy the music and have fun, and many look forward to our next dance!

RLC Life Ministries invites YOU to participate in our future events. We work on hosting varied events of interest to all. If you have ideas you’d like us to consider, please contact Trish in the church office, and she’ll share with our team. We hope you have enjoyed taking part in our safe, fun, and affordable activities, and encourage you to invite a friend to our next event!



IT'S ONLY A COMMUNITY WITH "YOU" IN IT

Michael Jordan, Director of Youth Ministry

As the Director of Youth Ministry, I not only get to work in the lives of youth, but also, I strive to equip parents, families, and other adult leaders to positively impact the faith lives of all our youth. It can be difficult to fully describe all the great memories and experiences our youth have here at RLC. One of the best ways to help more people understand what our youth love about being here is to simply invite them to come and see. The Smedsrud family has definitely accepted this invitation.

Chris Smedsrud shared some of his reflections on his years as a leader and volunteer with the Youth & Family Ministry programs:



The largest part of my time in this congregation has been spent in various roles with RLC's Youth ministries. It started with my time as a Confirmation small group leader back in 2010.

As we were getting ready to enroll our oldest daughter, I decided that if she was going to be at RLC every Wednesday night I could be here as well. I have to admit that I was nervous. Would I be able to lead a group of 8 guys to a closer understanding of their faith? After the 3 years together, I found it to be more rewarding than I could have imagined. The time spent preparing for the weekly lesson brought me closer to God. I was learning alongside the guys. Also, I would receive so much support from being a part of this group even if they didn't know it. There were some days that my head was not into being there and I would just want to get home. Still, by the time the small group time ended my spirit was always lifted. Those nights with the group meant more to me than those guys can imagine. If you are reading this and have thought about being a Confirmation small group leader, I would encourage you take the step. It is so rewarding, and I promise you will get more out of it than you put in it.



It never ceases to amaze me the insight that people have no matter the age. One example took place this past Lenten season. I had the opportunity to be a mentor for a young 9th grade man. There was one night where I was a little concerned about the lesson as I found it to be challenging. There were questions I didn't think I could answer, much less someone who had not completed their freshman year of high school. That evening the two of us sat down to talk after the church service and I explained that if he didn't know how to answer some of the questions, to not worry about it. With that I started in on the discussion items and when I started to ask some of the more difficult questions, I fully expected it to be met with silence. Instead, he gave me such insightful answers that I was blown away. Yep, God continued to use these situations to teach me about my own faith. I would encourage anyone to get involved with the youth group. Every time I help with any youth group activity, without exception, I feel one step closer to God. It can be as a Confirmation small group leader or during any number of youth events. You will be setting an example for the next generation and the next generation will also help guide you closer to our God as well.

Chris's youngest daughter, Abby, was just confirmed this past May. As she looks back on all of her memories here, she says:

Roseville Lutheran has always been a big part of my life. Starting with Cornerstone when I was little to now being a part of the youth ministry.

Even though I made it to church/Cornerstone every Sunday, I didn't fully connect with God until I went to Camp Hiawatha. The summer going into 4th grade was unforgettable. My sister went to Hiawatha and had a blast, so I could not wait to go for the first time. During my time at camp, there was an endless amount of laughter, friendship bracelet making, and memories. I had so much fun that I went back five more times. Every time was better than the last and helped my faith grow tremendously.



Being away from electronics helped me fully focus on my relationship with God and how to better understand it.

This past year I was finally able to attend the high school programs – FLOCK, Bagels @ Dawn, and MEA Getaway – while also going through my last year of Confirmation.

I have enjoyed all these programs, but my favorite was the mission trip to Slovakia and Budapest this past summer. While we were in Slovakia, we helped renew the windows on one of the school buildings, played with kids at the Gypsy Community Center, and explored Martin. The first day in Slovakia, we went to a church service. We were given earpieces with a translator to help understand the service. At one point, I decided to take the translator out of my ear and listen to the congregation sing in Slovak. In this moment I felt so united with God and my brothers and sisters in Christ. Spending time over there helped me see how much different our daily lives can be, but at the end of the day, our faith brings us together.

RLC has been one of the biggest influences on my life and has helped me become the person I am today. I am so thankful for all of the opportunities that church has given me to not only grow in my faith, but also as a person. I can't wait for what these next three years have in store.

It is always nice to know we have youth participating, learning, and growing in their faith and friendships. Here is Youth Ministry by the numbers from the past year (June 2018 – May 2019):

- Camp Hiawatha: 65 Campers; 7 Youth Leaders; 9 Adult Leaders
- Urban Immersion Mission Trip: 9 Youth; 3 Leaders
- BWCA: 28 Youth; 4 Leaders
- MEA Getaway: 40 Youth; 5 Leaders
- FLOCK: 22 youth weekly average; 10 leaders (thank you college young adults!)
- Bagels @ Dawn: 18 youth weekly average
- Holy Hoops: 16 youth; 4 coaches
- Graduating Class: 54 youth
- Confirmation Class: 46 youth

Many more youth, families, and adults have accepted the invitation to "come & see" all that is happening in the Youth Ministry at RLC. As always, there is plenty of room and a need for more people to be involved.

continues —>

In closing, I leave you with these final thoughts from Chris Smedsrud:

While all of these experiences have played a huge role in my faith and role within RLC, it is the experiences my children have had that I often think about. 22 years ago, my wife and I wanted to find a church home. We were about to have our first child and wanted to make sure we had somewhere to help lay down a strong foundation for her faith. Now, 22 years and 2 children later, I can say that there is no other place I would rather be. Many people involved with the youth ministries have been such a big part of their lives and have helped in the growth of their faith and lives. It is because of this that I don't see RLC just as our church. The feeling I have when I walk through those doors at 1215 Roselawn Avenue can be summed up in one word: Home.

The feeling I have when I walk through those doors can be summed up in one word:

Home

PASSING ON THE GIFT OF GIVING

Jenifer Johnson, RLC Preschool Director

It amazing how much our mission, "Love God, Love Your Neighbor" reaches beyond our preschool.

One cool morning while the construction workers were working on the roof, one of our preschool teachers overheard one of the construction workers say that he forgot to put on his warm socks. This preschool teacher happened to have a pair of socks in her bag that she was planning to give someone else. The preschool teacher decided that since the students were learning about giving to others she would take her class outside to give the construction worker the warm pair of socks.

The construction worker was awe struck that the preschool class gave him the socks. When he went home and told his wife she was brought to tears by the kindness. His wife told him that he should return the favor.

The construction worker had noticed we had been selling poinsettias. He approached our preschool by asking if he could buy all of the poinsettias we had left because he wanted to pay forward the kindness he had been given. There were six left. He decided to take only one poinsettia home to his wife, because he wanted to leave the rest for us to give away or use at our Christmas program.

Wow! We were amazed and humbled by doing a simple act of kindness!

As we continue to celebrate our 40th year of serving preschool students and their families, we hope we can continue to share our blessings with others. As you live each day, may you think of how you can share your love and see what happens. We hope that each day you will be blessed with acts of kindness!



summary of summer programs at ROSEVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH PARTICIPANTS and VOLUNTEERS

- VBS:** 128 kids, 42 Crew Leaders, 39 Station Leaders = 209 total
- Camp Hiawatha:** 47 youth, 6 youth leaders, 8 adult leaders = 61 total
- Slovakia Service Learning Trip:** 21 youth and 7 adult leaders = 28 total
- Summer Festival Camp:** 8 youth and 3 adult leaders = 11 total
- Camp Salie:** 12 youth, 4 youth leaders, 2 adult leaders = 18 total
- Summer of Service:** 41 youth, 17 adult leaders = 58 total
- Young Adult BWCA:** 8 total
- Youth BWCA:** 6 youth and 1 adult leader = 7 total



PLANTING SEED OF FAITH

Julie Hanson, Director of Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry offers families different opportunities to help kids grow in their faith. We want to plant seeds and give parents and caregivers the tools to carry on faith conversations at home. Parents and caregivers have many more opportunities to connect with their kids and reinforce the lessons we introduce in Cornerstone, at VBS, at Camp Salie and from the different events we hold throughout the year in Children's Ministry. Parents have a much bigger impact in a child's life than we do, due to the fact there is more opportunity for interaction throughout the week. A message or lesson for 50 minutes on Sunday morning, or one week at VBS can inspire them, but when parents continue this message or reinforce the lesson at home, the likelihood this message will stick is SO much better! Our goal in Children's Ministry is to equip parents to continue faith conversations in their homes and become the faith leaders in their children's lives.

When asked their feedback about Children's Ministry at RLC, here is what four of our parents had to say:



One of our daughters received a prayer dice at RLC from a workshop we attended about prayer. Every night we take turns rolling this dice to see what prayer we will say. We also add prayers to the ones that are on the dice. It is something tangible that helps us remind kids of something not always tangible. The music in Cornerstone translates into our family's life. I love hearing it hummed throughout the week. It is a reminder that God is with us throughout the daily grind of our lives, when times are great and when times are challenging. I am thankful for Children's Ministry in helping to give a strong foundation for faith to grow in. So many seeds are planted and it is exciting to see faith take shape in our kids' daily lives.



My daughters absolutely love participating in the Serve Sunday events that Children Youth and Family Ministry organizes for the church. We especially enjoyed helping put together the Kitchen Kits for Keystone. We spend a lot of time as a family in our kitchen cooking and eating together, so it was a very relatable discussion to talk about how not everyone has those things that we use every day. It was a great way to show them that we can help others in the community with our time (spending a Sunday morning on the project), treasures (bringing in items for the project) and talent (assembling the kits and writing a note to the recipient). It really hit home on our vision to be a "Community United by Grace!"



We missed a lot of Cornerstone this winter due to our activities, so I coordinated sending our son to VBS this summer for the 1st time. He was a little hesitant to go, he was nervous on Monday morning when I dropped him off. That afternoon when I picked him up and asked him how it went her replied, "It was Awesome!!! God is Good!" He has already made me promise to sign him up next year and his younger brother wants to come too! He is still signing the songs.



Thank you to these parents who took time to give us feedback on our programming! We look forward to Children's Ministry at RLC this next year! Look for a new sound and video system in the Activity Center to enhance our Large Group experience. We look forward to welcoming new volunteers and new friends into our small groups. We also will offer parents opportunities to connect while their kids are engaged! Hope you can join us!

Children's Ministry has and continues to impact our family in a variety of ways. Not just through a one-time event, but it has translated into our daily lives. Advent activities are a great kick-off to the season of Advent for our kids. My girls love the projects and they turn into keepsakes that I will have for years to come. I love the thought, story, creativity and high quality materials that are used.



I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

Daniel Pederson, Communications Manager

It is an honor to help share the story of Roseville Lutheran Church with the congregation and in the Roseville community through our publications and electronic media. I'm thankful for the able assistance this past year of Stephen Gallen, our (recently departed) Communications Specialist, and I look forward to the possibilities ahead of us in the future.



OLD PROGRAM, NEW FORMAT, NEWFOUND ENERGY AND EXCITEMENT

Abby Matter, Deacon, Director of Faith Formation

Sunday mornings have been a challenge for me in terms of middle school programming since I began working at Roseville Lutheran almost five years ago. There is so much energy and excitement for Cornerstone and Luther League that didn't necessarily translate into seventh and eighth grade programs. Over the past few years, one of my goals has been to rework the old program and invent something new that youth would want to come to on Sunday mornings. It started slowly, like most new things do, and almost died due to lack of participation and volunteer leadership. But what I thought might end up a closed door – an ended program – was swept up by two amazing volunteers and reworked into something wonderful. In the **blue box** on this page is a reflection on the year and the program, Devos and Donuts, from the perspective of Elizabeth Johnson, one of the two volunteers who agreed to lead this program.



Devos and Donuts is just one aspect of our youth program. Confirmation is another big aspect which includes things like retreats, lock-ins, service nights, fellowship nights and lesson nights. We also offer Sunday morning programs for fifth and sixth graders called Luther League that meets during the ten o'clock education hour along with milestone ministries like the prayer workshop and first communion. All of these programs are open to everyone – you do not need to be a member to participate!



You can learn more online at www.rosevillelutheran.org/ages-and-stages/.

Devos and Donuts was a blast this past year! We made it a point to figure out what the students wanted to talk or learn about instead of following a set curriculum. We got some good ideas from them and designed our Sundays based on those. We talked about quite varied topics ranging from "Is Heaven Real?" to "What About Other Religions?" and "How Should I Read the Bible?" We played games each Sunday to develop community and trust with each other and then delved into the topics they were excited about. The students and I really had fun playing the game "1-100". It's a simple dice game that really gets your competitive spirit going. It was so fun to see the differences in our students by watching them play this game. Some students are SOOOO competitive, some really couldn't care less, while others are in the middle of that spectrum. It's great to see how God has made us all different and unique. Although the games were fun, I think the most exciting part of Devos and Donuts for the students was...the donuts! The first thing they do when they walk in is grab some sugar! In Minnesota, food is always a community event.



My favorite topic of discussion this year was World Religions. We spent three weeks talking about the differences and similarities in the various religions and why we think Christianity is so compelling. Some parents might be fearful of having their children learn about other religions because of thoughts they might waver in their own faith, but I think it simply strengthens our beliefs and also helps us to find common ground with those around us at school or soccer or in the orchestra, so that we can approach others with love, rather than fear.

We've got a few new ideas we might try out for next year, but I believe our students had fun and learned about their faith during the past school year. I enjoyed planning the lessons with Michelle Swiglo and hanging out with our amazingly fun students each Sunday. Looking forward to another fun year next year.

– Elizabeth Johnson, Devos and Donuts Volunteer

BLESSED BY THE GIFTS

John Helgen, Director of Music

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord,
O my soul! I will praise the Lord
as long as I live; I will sing
praises to my God all my life long.*

– Psalm 146



Roseville Lutheran is greatly blessed by the gifts of its many musicians – players, singers, ringers, accompanists, people of all ages and descriptions – who provide musical leadership in our worship and enhance and enrich our time together. They participate in numerous ensembles - Senior Choir, Children's Choir, 11 AM Choir, Jubilate Bell Choir, Bells of Praise, Joyful Ringers, 11 AM Band, Acoustic Band, RLC Brass Ensemble, and the RLC Jazz band.

Here are two of their stories, one from someone new to Roseville Lutheran, and one from someone who has participated for more than two decades.

DO YOU HAVE ROOM FOR ONE MORE TENOR?

I didn't expect John to say "no" when I emailed him last fall. But a small part of me hoped that he would. I had sung in a church choir for several years, but having twins ten years ago had drastically changed our Sunday

mornings and Wednesday evenings. A decade out of practice had left me rusty, hesitant.

But John said yes, and I showed up for the next practice. And I'm so glad he did, and I did. Being part of a church choir has been such an important part of my continuing education as a follower of Jesus and a member of his Body.

First, singing in a choir teaches me to use my gifts, modest as they are. I've learned that the Holy Spirit works through us — through minds as creative as John's, fingers as nimble as Martha's, and voices as imperfect as mine — to bring a sacrifice of praise, to share glimpses of the beauty created on Earth and promised in Heaven, and to proclaim God's love and grace for all people.

And as I sing words and music written by women and men from all times and cultures, joining my voice to those of old and new friends, I see — and hear — more and more clearly that Christ's church is being made one out of



RLC ANNUAL MEETING

10:00 am, Sunday, September 22, 2019

PROPOSED AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Review of Meeting Rules
3. Approval of Prior Year's Minutes
4. President's Report
5. President-Elect's Report
6. Budget Proposal and Vote
7. Closing Prayer



MUSIC continues from Page 15

many. It's why I especially cherish being part of that tenor section: we rarely get the melody, but singing harmony with what gifts I've been given reminds me to seek the unity of a Body that "does not consist of one member but of many," baptized together "in the one Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:13-14).

It's like living out a parable: week in and week out, people come together from out of a bitterly divided society to tune their voices together and focus the congregation's attention on the Triune One.

Thanks for the honor and joy of letting me take part in that work! Thanks for supporting the ministry of music at Roseville Lutheran Church!

– Chris Gehrz

BRINGING THE MESSAGE OF GOD'S LOVE

Some 20 years ago, a member of the RLC senior choir invited me to try singing in the choir. I swallowed my pride and showed up at a rehearsal, the first time I had sung in an organized group since sixth grade (my last year in our church children's choir). I told the choir director that I would stop coming whenever he suggested I do so. He was a softhearted soul and let me stay. It has turned out to be one of the best things I have done. I have been rewarded with a great deal of musical education, the fellowship of a wonderful group of people, and the joy of helping to bring the message of God's love in every worship service.

– Tom Lund

If you would like to get involved in music at RLC, please contact John Helgen: jhelgen@rosevillelutheran.org or call 651-288-4236.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

– Colossians 3:16