

Adult Faith Formation Annual Report for 2017

Committee Members: Sharon Esmont, chairperson; Art Gorman; Lin Irish; Craig Swendsen, Faith Formation Director; and new members Deb and Tom Frecka. The Freckas joined to help bring back the monthly Adult Forum on Sunday mornings.

Studies and Activities

Sunday, Jan 8 – The Adult Sunday School started a new study using the Augsburg Fortress book – **Together by Grace: Introducing the Lutherans**. In addition to a new study, the hours of Adult Sunday School were changed to 9:30 am to 11:00 am. This allows more time for wonderful discussions.

Wed, Jan 10 – The Wednesday Morning Study Group continued a study from last year – **Experiencing God's Presence**. A book is based on Sara Young's **Jesus Calling Daily Devotional**.

Sunday, February 26 – There was no Sunday School because of a farewell party for Pastor Steve Schwier because he was retiring.

Lenten devotionals were used from Ash Wednesday, March 1 thru April 16 (Easter). Both the Wed 10 AM Bible Study Group and the Adult Sunday School used them. Pastor Kim Bloom led a Wednesday 7 pm class using the same booklet. Forty (40) copies were ordered of the Augsburg devotional booklet **"free indeed"** with daily readings from Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, reflection and prayer. **"free indeed"** invites each person to reflect on Martin Luther's guide to the basics of Christian faith.

This is also the year of the **500th Anniversary of the Reformation**, so a committee was formed to plan a celebration in October. Committee members were Hillary Doerries, Craig Swendsen, Rita Kurtz, Sharon Esmont and Lin Irish.

During March we had a **Reformation 500 Bookstore**, with items sent from Augsburg Fortress. A display was set up in the narthex with a variety of Reformation books for church members to purchase at 50% off the regular price and free shipping. Bob Irish and Karen Maier volunteered to help people fill out the order form between each Sunday worship service. Orders were collected up to and including March 26th. Augsburg donated the books sent for the display to our church's library after the bookstore was finished.

Adult Forum - April 2nd Geoff Layman did a presentation on **"The Un-churching of America: What's causing it, what are the consequences, and what can we do about it?"** Over 50 people attended. It took place during the Adult Sunday School time from 9:30-11:00 AM in Rooms 504-502.

A half-sheet bio flyer was prepared and placed on the narthex table, located outside the center sanctuary doors. There were copies of a magazine article related to the topic on that same table. Refreshments were available. Tom and Deb Frecka brought baked goods and Sharon Esmont provided coffee and fresh juice. This discussion was so popular, there was a panel discussion held in May on the same topic.

The AFF committee talked about holding these Adults Forums on the 1st Sunday of each month, but we liked the idea of calling the events "Second Sunday Speaker Series". Therefore, we will plan future events on the second Sunday of each month, if possible.

Pastor Jane Aicher was working with an ELCA task force on Women and Justice to develop a "**Faith, Sexism, Justice: Conversations Toward a Social Statement**". She held a few discussion sessions during the week to gather ideas for this social statement. Dates picked were May 8, 15, and 22.

Month of May – Current Adult Studies:

The book **Together by Grace** was used by both the Adult Sunday School and the Wednesday 10 am Bible Study Group. **Other Adult Study Groups at our church: Men's Bible Study** 8-9am every other Thursday, starting May 4, using the DVD "**How We Got the Bible**" and the **Women on Wednesday (WOW)** – 7 pm every Wednesday discuss articles in the "**Gather Magazine**."

Adult Forum - May 21 was the next Second Sunday Speaker Series – (YES – this date is not the 2nd Sunday, but with the Senior Pastor Candidate sermons and reception happening on May 14, the Adult Form had to be moved.) **A Panel Discussion called "Not Done with the 'Nones'"** based on Geoff Layman's April presentation on "The Un-churching of America." The panel included Tom Frecka, Geoff Layman, Susan Parkman and Pastor Van Oort. They focused on two primary questions: 1) What can we, or should we do about declining church attendance? (2) How can we get more youth involvement? Attendance at this event was 45 people. Refreshments were served.

Adult Forum – June 11 – Rev. Paul Doyle, C.S.C., Rector of Dillion Hall, University of Notre Dame. Father Paul's presentation was titled: "**Ministering to Young Adults**." Ordained as a Holy Cross priest in 1977, Fr. Doyle became rector of Dillon Hall at Notre Dame in 1997. Dillion Hall is a male dorm housing almost 300 students. Fr. Paul has served in many roles at Notre Dame and in the South Bend Community. From 1980-1985, he was pastor of St. Joseph Parish in South Bend. From 1991-1997, he was religious superior of Moreau Seminary and a member of the officer's group and Board of Trustees at the University. He served as chaplain of the Notre Dame football team from 2001-2013. He also served as one of Father Hesburgh's principal caregivers in his final days. Everyone found Father Paul to be an excellent and entertaining speaker, and they enjoyed the refreshments. Attendance at this event was 47 people.

Adult Forum – July 16 – Justin Bartkus, a recent graduate student at Notre Dame, led a presentation titled "**Results of a New Study on Religious Parenting in America**." Mr. Bartkus is highly trained in the humanistic fields of theology, philosophy and the sociology of religion. As a recent graduate student at Notre Dame, he assisted Notre Dame Sociology Professor Christian Smith with his study of the religiosity and spirituality of Millennials. They observed a widespread drift of these young adults from any substantial notion of religious identity or practice.

But the main result of the Smith/Bartkus research is that parents are the most important causal factor for the transmission of faith to their children. The researchers determined that "the single most decisive difference between Millennials who remained religiously committed into adulthood and those who didn't was *the degree of religiousness exhibited by their parents.*"* Justin discussed this and many other interesting insights from this National Study of Youth and Religion. Attendance for this event was 43 people. * Justin Bartkus, "The Home, A Catholic Subculture That Makes a Difference," *The Catechetical Review*, April-June, 2017

The resignation of Craig Swendsen as Faith Formation Director was accepted in August, 2017. His last day was Sunday August 20th when a farewell reception was held from 10:30-11:00 am. Jill and Mark Graybill handled the food and punch. Sharon Esmont gave a send-off speech. Craig and his fiancé were married in September. His fiancé lives and works in Indianapolis, therefore he moved to that city after leaving CtK. The council decided to replace Craig with an interim Faith Formation Coordinator with a work schedule of 10-15 hours a week. Faith Jordan accepted the position and started on September 1st.

Adult Studies in August and September - The book **Together by Grace: Introduction to the Lutherans** was finished by the Adult Sunday School on August 27th and the Wed 10 am Bible Study Group finished the book on September 20th. The study of **The Will of God** by Rev. Leslie Weatherhead started on Sunday, September 17th. The book contains five sermons written by Rev. Weatherhead and preached to the City Temple in London during World War II. The founding date of the City Temple is 1640 and they can trace its roots back to the Protestant Reformation. These sermons were crafted to be a lifeline for grieving persons seeking to understand the intent and will of God in the midst of pain and sorrow.

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group decided to use **Leslie Weatherhead's The Will of God Workbook** by Rebecca Lard which they started on September 27th. This workbook contains all five sermons plus case studies, questions and exercises for personal reflection and prayers.

October – Reformation 500 Anniversary Month – The Reformation 500 Committee scheduled two Wednesday evenings, October 11th and 18th to serve German dinners and show a Lutheran movie. The first dinner was brats and sauerkraut with large soft pretzels to eat during the movie – ***Rick Steve's Luther and the Reformation*** DVD. There were 46 people who attended the first evening. The second dinner was Bavarian Chicken and spaetzle, along with large soft pretzels and the movie was ***European Christmas Customs*** (which was included in the Rick Steve's DVD). Fifty-eight (58) people attended the second dinner/movie.

A life-size Martin Luther was set outside the sanctuary so that selfies with Martin could be taken. Everyone was asked to send copies of their selfies to the church office to share.

A Hymn Festival Celebration was held on Wednesday, October 25 at 7:00 pm, which presented Martin Luther's legacy of music while everyone sang some of the most beloved Lutheran hymns. A light reception followed the festival.

The month ended with special worship services on Sunday 29th when Pastor Caroline did a unique young people's message on Reformation Sunday. Flat Martin and Katie Luther were available for everyone to take on their future adventures and to take selfies to share.

Before Craig Swendsen resigned he ordered a booklet to study during October from Creative Communications – ***Heavenly Fire: Reflections on Sermons by Martin Luther*** written by Carol Geisler. This booklet was used during October in Bible Study Groups.

November Advent Studies: A booklet titled ***Moving Toward the Manger: Reflections on the Writings of Frederick Buechner*** written by Martin E. Marty was used. Quotes from two of Buechner's books (*Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC* and *Whistling in the Dark: A Doubter's Dictionary*) were used on each day of Advent. Scriptures from the Bible were at the top of each day's readings, followed by a Buechner quote and a commentary by Martin Marty. The day's lesson ended with a short prayer. Martin Marty was a professor at the University of Chicago Divinity School for 35 years and has authored over 60 books. The Frederick Buechner quotations showed each of us the humor of this great theologian who has authored over 30 books.

Adult Forum – November 19th - Rev. Dr. Jane Aicher did a presentation on ***Life as a Prison Chaplain at Westville Correctional Faculty.*** Pastor Jane has served over 30 years in various chaplaincy positions at the Westville Prison. She shared many surprising things which happened while serving there and finished her speech stating: "This ministry was the most rewarding ministry of my 34 years as a pastor." It was a fascinating presentation – and everyone wants her to come back again. Attendance was 52 people.

This year has been a year of staff changes starting with Pastor Kim Bloom as interim associate pastor, the retirement of Pastor Steve Schwier at the end of February; 6 months with Rev. Dr. Jane Aicher as the interim senior pastor, the September start of our new Senior Pastor Caroline Satre, and finishing the changes at the beginning of December with our new Associate Pastor Brad Davick. We have all survived this year of changes with the guidance and love of our Lord. AMEN !

Child Faith Formation Committee

Annual Report for 2017

The Child Faith Formation Committee oversees Sunday school for children from pre-school through 5th grade, and also plans and carries out the summer VBS program. In addition, CFF has continued to lead the Trunk or Treat outreach event, as well as the Parents Day Out Christmas party for children.

Committee members: Kathy Thornton (chair), Craig Swendsen (staff until mid Aug), Faith Jordan (staff since Sept), Jill Harms, Amy Layman, Mallory Weinhold (new in Jan 2018).

Sunday school: Sunday school for children is divided into 3 classrooms: Pre K/K, 1st-2nd grade, and 3rd-5th grade. (6th grade is now included in the youth class, as of 2016). There were 26 children registered for Sunday school in the fall, and an average attendance of 15. The classes are taught by dedicated adult volunteers and older youth, who commit to teaching one month at a time, but stay pretty consistent throughout the year. The curriculum used this year was “Whirl,” from Augsburg Fortress, which includes a DVD video clip and a lectionary-based lesson each Sunday. This was the 4th year we’ve used this curriculum. In addition, there were 2 special month-long studies: Milestones in March and Martin Luther in October, which the children enjoyed. The Pre K/K class Milestone was “We Worship”, 1st-2nd grades learned the “Lord’s Prayer”, 4th grade worked on the “First Bible” Milestone, and 3rd and 5th grades studied more about Martin Luther. In May, the “First Communion” Milestone class was offered. 10 children completed the class and received their first communion on June 11.

Schedule: A few different Sunday school schedules have been tried in the last 2 years. This year, the schedule has been: Music opening at 10:20 in the sanctuary (near the end of the 9:30 service), led by XALT!, is much loved by the kids. The children are then taken to the classes by their parents at 10:30 and classes finish by 11:15. Some other options are being discussed for 2018 as we are thinking of ways to improve the current schedule and flow for children and families.

Vacation Bible School: We hosted VBS here from Aug. 1-3 in the mornings, and were blessed with beautiful weather all week! The theme this year was “Maker Fun Factory”, reminding the kids that God made us just the way we are. We had 26 children attend, as well as 11 youth who helped with the children and also performed skits on stage each day. In addition, 15 adult volunteers helped to make everything run smoothly and were wonderful leaders for music, story telling, crafts, snacks, games, and more.

Trunk or Treat: Our 6th Annual Trunk or Treat outreach event was on Oct. 22 and had a huge turnout again from the community. The weather was rainy, so the event was held indoors with 30 “trunks” stationed in the doorways and classrooms. We were able to serve over 750 guests, passing out candy and serving them a hotdog supper in Van Oort Hall. Our CtK children, youth and families, and many adults all helped in a big way and had a lot of fun! Many thanks to Thrivent, Meijer, Martin’s, and CtK donors for completely funding this event!

Parents Day Out: This was the 5th year of this fun Christmas event for the kids. It was held the morning of Dec. 9 and included lunch. We had 8 children, 14 youth and 6 adults, and all ages got involved in the active games, Christmas crafts, an “Advent Journey” message throughout the church, cookie decorating, watching a movie together, and finishing with more games and laughs.

Vision for CFF in 2018: We are looking ahead to new ideas and goals for 2018, including adding more children’s events throughout the year (some being family events connecting the parents as well as the kids), expanding VBS to a 5 day week and growing the outreach and promotion of the program, inviting more families to be involved in Sunday school, and adding a Children’s Christmas Program in December. We would love to have a few more CFF committee members to add to these ideas and help us move ahead!

Thank you to all who have helped with children’s ministry this year!

Respectfully submitted,

Faith Jordan, Faith Formation Coordinator

Evangelical Outreach 2017 Annual Report
Bill Montgomery, Council Liaison

The Evangelical Outreach Committee of one is by no means a singular endeavor. As your Council Liaison, who has served the two consecutive term limit, the Congregation Council is looking for a future Evangelical Outreach Council Liaison.

Many other faithful congregation members have built relationships through hospitality ministry such as our Greeter Team and those that tirelessly assist with the numerous fellowship events throughout the year. Our Ministry and Mission Coordinators, IT/Communications Manager and Social Ministry Committee members also do an excellent job in welcoming and providing opportunities to fulfill faith practices.

The invitation to study and serve will continue and the upcoming Lenten Small Groups will be an excellent opportunity for all to engage in meaningful dialogue about how we may all love and bless the world.

Fellowship Annual Report For 2017

Although we do not have an official Fellowship Committee nor regular meetings, Mark and Jill Graybill, David Smail and myself do many fellowship events. This year JoAnne Westerhausen has been involved in many receptions providing flowers and doing other things. I will give highlights of our activities. More details can be found in the Fellowship binder in Marie's office. I generally make a sign-up sheet, take photos, send them to Marie and she puts them on the monitor. Tom Hake and the Property Committee usually set up tables and chairs and procure and return the tent as needed. Many people help put away the tables and chairs.

1/29/17 Meal after Congregational Meeting: This event was organized by Mark and Jill. Bob and Charlotte O'Dell set up in Van Oort Hall on Saturday. I made a sign-up sheet. Several people helped with serving and cleaning up. Between 75 and 80 attended.

2/26/17 Farewell Reception for Pastor Steve: This reception was organized by Sharon Esmont, a church council member. Rita Kurtz ordered the cake. Other council members provided cheese and crackers, fruit trays, veggie trays, cookies and brownies. Sharon did the punch and made a giant card for everyone to sign for Pastor Steve. Tom Jordan was the emcee. Mark and Jill helped with set-up and clean up as well as others. Tom Hake and crew set up tables and chairs.

4/21/17 Surprise Retirement Celebration for Pastor Steve: A Retirement Celebration for Pastor Steve Schwier was held at Clay Firehouse open gym. In attendance were many current and former members of Christ the King, members of his previous congregations in Princeton and Richmond, Indiana, many of his family and clergy friends from over 37 years of Pr. Steve's ministry. A buffet dinner was provided by Papa Vino's restaurant. A "This is Your Life, Pr. Steve" skit with accompanying photos and videos was emceed by Matt Douhan in which individuals in Pr. Steve's life shared stories and memories. Finally, a monetary gift was presented in hopes that he and his wife, Kathy, would take a once in a lifetime vacation, which of course, would include his beloved sport, golf. The evening ended with remarks and reflections by the man of the hour. (Thanks to Kathy for organizing this wonderful event and writing this summary.)

4/30/17 Farewell Reception for Pastor Kim: This reception was organized by Rita Kurtz and Andy Trundle from the Worship Committee. Members provided various pastries and Mark Graybill provided cut-up veggies. Cheese, fruit and veggies were also purchased. JoAnne provided flowers from the council and Sharon made a large card for CtK members to sign. A beautiful crystal compote bowl was also given to Pastor Kim. Rummage Sale volunteers set up on Saturday and Andy and Mark on Sunday. Jane Darnell and I finished setting out paper products and food on Sunday and served. Various people helped clean up.

5/14/17 Senior Pastor Candidate Reception for Pastor Caroline: Thanks to so many people for making the reception for Pastor Caroline a huge success: Tom and the Property Committee for setting up and taking down tables and chairs, JoAnne for providing flowers for Pastor Caroline, Mark and Jill for doing the punch and all the ladies who contributed food including: Pam, Tricia, Peg, Barb, Charlotte, Liz, Linda L., Sue, Jane, Jill H., Sharon, Jan, Sandra, Margie, Sandy W., Lorrie and Linda K. Thanks to all who helped us set up, serve and clean up. I took photos for the monitor and already had paper products. Marie ordered cups for us and put the photos on the monitor.

6/4/17 Strawberry Social: Thanks to everyone for making the Strawberry Social a huge success: Tom Hake and his crew set up the tables and chairs in the narthex, Bob and Jan Daniels supplied the geraniums for the tables, Cookie Zerfas baked shortcakes, Mark and Jill bought supplies, food, water, cut brownies and served and Margie Yarger cut cakes and served. Thanks also to Barb Myers, Dee Schlotfeldt and David Smail for serving. Thanks to Barb Davidson who stayed to the end serving and cleaning up. Thanks to John Huchko for cleaning the coffee pot and Tom Jordan and others who put away tables and chairs. I provided red napkins and took photos. Thanks to Marie for buying cups and posting photos on the monitor. We collected \$65 for free will offering. I took the left over cut-up cakes and brownies to the Clay Fire Department as we had no other event at Ctk that week and they would have dried out.

8/20/17 Farewell Reception for Craig Swendsen: A reception was held in the narthex for Craig Swendsen on his last day at Ctk and was organized by Mark and Jill. Cake and nuts were served. Donations were accepted for a monetary gift for Craig and his fiance who were getting married in September.

8/27/17 Welcome Reception for Pastor Caroline and family: A welcome reception was held in the narthex for Pastor Caroline, Pastor Brad and Ellie as this was Pastor Caroline's first day of preaching as our new pastor. The Layman family made a large welcome poster that everyone signed. JoAnne did beautiful decorating with lime green table cloths and plates, balloons and flowers for Pastor Caroline and family. Thanks to all for the wide assortment of food donated. Xalt and the Choir led us in singing a personalized version of Sweet Caroline around the piano. Mark and Jill served. I took photos and we all cleaned up. Thanks to Marie for posting the photos on the monitor.

9/10/17 Church Picnic: Craig ordered the Bounce Castle and Obstacle Course and then resigned before the picnic. I was asked to spearhead the event and made the sign-up sheet for food. The staff decided they wanted burgers and hot dogs, not just main dishes and sides. John Huchko organized the grillers and he and Chuck Trundle, Don Zerfas and Mark grilled. Tom Hake and crew handled the tent and table and chairs. Besides Mark, Jill and myself, Jane Darnell, Barb Myers, Dee, Barb Davidson, Ed and Peg Stood helped set up and serve. The Yargers, Hakes, Jordans, Sandy Moehling,

and some others pitched in to clean up. We had a good variety of salads, other sides and desserts. Barb Davidson had tablecloths for the food tables and floral centerpieces for the round tables. I took photos and Marie put them on the monitor.

9/24/17 Farewell Reception for Pastor Jane: Thanks to everyone who helped with this reception. Bob and Charlotte O'Dell, Bob Whiteman and I set up the tables and chairs and helped me decorate. JoAnne provided the beautiful flowers for Pastor Jane. We used Barb's table decorations again. Many thanks for the wide assortment of breakfast food everyone brought as well as cookies from George at Real Services. Mark brought orange juice. Thanks to all who helped serve and clean up: Mark, David Smail, Bill and Pam Montgomery, Bob and Charlotte, Dee, Margie Yarger and Tom Jordan. The Prayer Shawl Ministry gave Pastor Jane a beautiful prayer shawl and said a special prayer. I took photos and thanks to Marie for putting them on the monitor.

11/5/17 Reception for Pastor Brad at Q and A Session: Thanks to all for making the reception at the Question and Answer session with Pastor Brad a huge success. Tom and his crew set up for 150 people in Van Oort Hall and we had some standing. JoAnne provided flowers for Pastor Brad, Mark and Jill provided the juice. Sharon Esmont made coffee and Barb Davidson made the table decorations. All helped serve and clean up as well as Barb Wells and myself. Thanks to all who provided a nice assortment of fruit, coffee cakes, pastries, brownies and cookies.

12/3/17 Reception for Pastor Brad's First Day: Thanks to JoAnne Westerhausen for doing the morning reception for Pastor Brad's first day after accepting the call. The blue tablecloths, flowers, and blue and green paper products looked so pretty. She had bottles of water and a nice assortment of baked goods as well as a cranberry/nut treat made by Sharon Esmont.

12/3/17 Reception after Sights and Sounds: Thanks to all who helped make the reception after Sights and Sounds a huge success and those who donated a wide variety of appetizers and desserts. Tom Hake and his crew set up four tables for serving and eleven for people to sit and eat. We had over 100 attend. Mark and Jill provided the delicious lime sherbet punch as well as served and cleaned up. Barb W., Barb M., David, Fran and Isaac, helped with set up and clean up. Several other people helped with clean up and putting tables and chairs away including Bob and Charlotte, Chuck, Mark, and others who pitched in. I took photos and thanks to Marie for putting them on the monitor. We were totally done by 6:30.

If anyone wants to help with these types of events in 2018, please see one of us mentioned at the top of the report or Marie.

Sandy Whiteman, Fellowship

Mission Annual Report 2017

Mission Vision

As the body of Christ, we are called and sent to love and serve the world. This phrase epitomizes the vision of the CtK Mission. As a church, we focus both on local and international missions. We are a congregation that serves generously; not only financially, but through action. Locally, we commit to serving monthly meals at the Center for the Homeless and Dismas House. We have mentors volunteering weekly at Madison Primary School and each summer we have a team that works on a Habitat for Humanity house. This summer we partnered with four local churches on a new community mission called *A Backpack and Beyond*. We also regularly collect items for the Women's Care Center and St. Margaret's House, as well as collect over 200 Christmas presents for local residents on our Angel Tree and over 50 hats and mittens for Broadway Christian Parish. Internationally, we send a team to Sunbeam Boys' Home in Jamaica annually. While there, the team works on facility projects, teaches the youth and leads the boys in fellowship. CtK also has created a relationship with the Phebe Hospital School in Liberia, sponsoring 60 student's education, through paying their tuition, books, uniforms and shoes.

Progress of the Ministry (Review of the year)

New to 2017:

A Backpack and Beyond: CtK partnered with Clay Church, Sunnyside Presbyterian Church, Northwest United Methodist Church and St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church to provide 308 local low-income students in grades K-4 with items necessary to ensure a positive start to the school year. Prior to receiving the items and services, recipients had the opportunity to meet with representatives from over 20 community agencies. Three CtK members joined the planning committee in February and the event took place on Saturday, August 5. CtK members donated socks and we raised \$3,600 through Second Mile Giving, Thrivent Action funds, Mission Grant Funds and a private donation to pay for a majority of the winter coats. Almost 50 members of CtK volunteered, helping families get their supplies the day of the event. CtK is committed to continuing with this mission in 2018.

A special thanks must be given to Boling Vision for providing the vision exams and JC Penney for providing all coats and shoes at cost.



What did the kids receive at B&B?

- A new backpack
- All required school supplies
- A new winter coat
- New tennis shoes
- A winter hat
- Winter mittens
- 6 pairs of socks
- Reading books
- A haircut
- A dental cleaning
- A vision exam & free glasses if needed

Mission Sunday: On Sunday, September 10, 17 display boards were set up in the narthex, each representing the CtK missions. These boards provided the mission of the organization, a description of how to get involved, and which CtK member(s) to contact about the mission. There was also a congregational member who volunteers at the agency standing by the board to answer any questions. The purpose of this activity was to bring awareness to the congregation, showing all CtK does in the local and international community, as well as make connections between those interested in volunteering with those who already do. As an added bonus to this event, Brian Exner was able to record each volunteer explaining the mission they represent and has begun creating professional videos on each mission for our website.

Driver Assistance Program: The Driver Assistance Program is still in the infancy stage, as it was introduced in the October Spotlight. The purpose of this program is to connect congregational members who are willing to transport other congregational members to and from appointments. Members who need a ride simply call the office and ask for the list of drivers. They then call the volunteers on the list to see if any are available. Currently, there are 5 members signed up to drive and most members listed weekdays for their availability. However, the need seems to be on weekends (people would like rides to church), so the success of the program has yet to be determined.

Spotlight on Missions: New to the King's Herald in 2017 was the article "Spotlight on Missions." This article highlights a CtK volunteer and tells about their experience with the spotlighted organization, with which they share their time and talent.

2017 Spotlight on Missions Organizations

- Angel Tree
- Dismas House
- Driver Assistance Program
- God's Work. Our Hands.
- Jamaica Mission Trip
- Madison STEAM Academy
- Phebe School
- Rummage Sale

Mission Fund Grant Recipients

Four community organizations received Mission Grant Funds in 2017, totaling \$8,500. Any CtK member affiliated with a ministry independent from or originated within CtK can apply for a grant. Ministries outside of CtK must have a mission in line with CtK's mission statement, "As the body of Christ, we are called and sent to love and serve the world." The grant request must be for a project or capital need that has not yet taken place or for program support, supplies and capital needs that contribute to the care of the people served by the ministry. This year, CtK fulfilled four applications:

- A Backpack & Beyond, \$2,500: *See above for a description.*
- REAL Services, Inc.; Meals on Wheels, \$2,500: Meals on Wheels helps older adults remain independent by preparing and delivering fresh, nutritious meals to those homebound. In 2016, Meals on Wheels delivered 87,924 meals to 527 homebound people in St. Joseph County. CtK was able to pay for over 380 meals with this grant.

- Samaritan Counseling Center; Client Assistance Program, \$2,000: The Samaritan Counseling Center's Mission is to help people manage the stress and hurt in their lives through counseling and education based on its Judeo-Christian heritage. The Client Assistance Fund is used to provide financial assistance to those clients who are uninsured and/or unable to afford these counseling services. This grant money funds approximately six client's needs.
- YMCA of Michiana; Michiana Swims; \$1,500: Michiana Swims teaches low income 2nd grade students in the South Bend Community School Corporation how to swim and be safe around the water. The goal of the program is to provide life-saving water safety education to low income children who would not likely have the opportunity to learn to swim. These children attend eight 45-minute swim lessons provided by the YMCA. CtK was able to sponsor almost 17 children with this grant.

Vision of the Ministry (Goals for 2018)

When looking ahead to 2018, it is important to consider new goals for the Missions of CtK. As the Mission Coordinator, the four goals I feel need to be prioritized are as following:

1. Bring an understanding and acknowledgement of local mission-based organizations. One possible way of doing this is to coincide the Spotlight on Mission article with a monthly Mission Talk, which will take place during the Sunday School hour once a month.
2. Create a method to track the missions our church members are participating with and share that information with the congregation.
3. Connect with CtK members who desire to be involved with missional work, but are not currently doing so and help make connections with local agencies to fulfill their need.
4. Improve/update the CtK Mission website.

Submitted by:
 Jill Harms
 Mission Coordinator