

Timothy Lutheran Ministries
Voters' Assembly -- December 3, 2017

MINISTRY STAFF

Senior Pastor—Richard Steensma

2017 was a year of tremendous blessings for Timothy. As Senior Pastor, I have the joy and privilege of working closely with our Executive Board, our Elected Elders, our Church staff and our School staff. I must tell you that Timothy and I are truly blessed by each and every one of them. Some of the highlights this year include:

1. Goal Setting: After reviewing the information gathered in small group meetings, I met with the staff and leadership of Timothy to identify ways in which we can improve on Touching Lives for Christ. To be more specific, how do we continue to not only make disciples but also continue to intentionally grow as disciples?
2. RESTORE: During the month of June, Pastor Rod and Pastor John carried out an amazing job of helping us to focus on how each of us has been restored by God. As God's restored children, we live: Moving Forward, Being Positive and Impacting Lives—an excellent way to summarize the work of the Body of Christ.
3. Ask, Thank, Tell: Also this summer our staff and leaders read and discussed the book, *Ask, Thank, Tell* by Charles R. Lane. The book helped all of us to realize that we help people to grow as disciples as we improve the ways in which we ASK them to participate in the life of the church, THANK them for participating and TELL them how their participation helps the kingdom to grow.
4. New School Leadership: With the retirement of Ed Kuerschner in June, Ken Holland was brought on staff to serve as Timothy's Principal. Ken has accomplished great things by not only providing leadership for our school and its families but also getting to know more and more members of Timothy as he shares our school's story.

As we look back and see God's faithfulness to us and praise Him for His many blessings, we also look forward. My prayer for Timothy in 2018 is that God will continue to keep our eyes, ears and hearts open to the opportunities to share and show the light of His love.

Associate Pastor—John Otte

Looking back over this year, several things stand out for me:

1. Middle School Youth: Several people expressed a desire to expand the middle school youth program to include more "fun events." Over the summer, we formed a leadership group and then hit the ground running in the fall, resulting in a very positive response with lots of youth attending the first few events. We look forward to seeing what 2018 holds for this new and exciting time!
2. Senior High Youth: Senior High Youth continues as a strong ministry, with good participation in Revolution on Wednesday nights. We always have fun diving into God's Word and talking about life, faith and everything in between. Senior High Youth have also enjoyed fun events over the past year, especially the Escape Room experience in the spring and lock-in this fall. Both were

well-received and lots of fun. Looking forward, we will gear up for the National Youth Gathering in 2019 to the Holy Land of Minneapolis.

3. Young Adult Bible Study: A dedicated group of young adults (defined as 20's and 30's, single and married) meet on the first and third Mondays in the Youth Room. We've discussed some Biblical books, and lately we have delved into C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*. We encourage others to join us!
4. Crossways: Crossways continues, and we've held on to a significant number of participants. A little bit of attrition is always normal, simply because people need to drop out for a variety of reasons, but we have only lost about a dozen over the past 18 months. As of this writing, we will soon enter the Gospels. Provided there are no major hiccups, we will wrap up this round of Crossways in late April or early May. Several people have already asked about when the next round will start. I am working out the details for that now and hopefully will have an answer soon.
5. Worship Planning: It was a great privilege to work with Pastor Rich, Pastor Rod and Kent on the worship series for RESTORE, Loved + Sent, and The Gifts God Gives. We will have more interesting and in-depth worship series occurring in 2018 as well.
6. Ask, Thank, Tell: As part of Timothy's new focus on giving and stewardship, I have been asked to lead the "Tell" part of the program. It will be my job to help tell the stories about what Timothy does to impact lives in the Blue Springs area.

I could probably go on. I am still so thankful for the way you have all welcomed my family and me into your congregation to make us a part of your family. I look forward to seeing what 2018 has in store for all of us!

Associate Pastor—Rod Lindemann

Children's Ministry—Additional to GROW Commission Report

- The Rock: North Campus Sunday morning children's education hour from 9:45-10:45. The Rock offers a full hour of educational opportunity for kids 3 years old to 5th grade. I am currently creating a survey with the GROW Commission to consider a new format for Children's Ministry at the North Campus to be more similar to Faith Roots at the South Campus. Meetings will be scheduled for open discussion with parents.
- Cross Walk: North Campus Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 from September to April. This is an opportunity for Timothy children to gather together as a whole to grow in God's Word. Activities include a large opening, puppets and class breakouts. We are very thankful for the many volunteers who lead and teach the children.
- Faith Roots: South Campus Sunday morning during the last half of Service of Joy. Approximately mid-service, children are released for a 30-minute educational experience. A large-group opening for the younger children is followed by break-out into age-appropriate groups. A few additional volunteers are needed to lead or assist in a class. Teachers are asked to serve 1-2 weeks per month. Please contact me if you are interested. We are very thankful for the volunteers who lead and teach the children.
- VBS: This year's VBS was a huge success as we continue to draw children from the community. God blessed us with an amazing group of volunteers and leaders. This year the children raised nearly \$1200 for Forster Adopt Connect in Independence. The leadership team will meet soon to

determine next year's theme and begin to make plans. VBS dates are July 16-20 with the Kickoff on July 15.

JourneyMen: Currently, JourneyMen hosts three weekly Bible studies led by various leaders. Each year JourneyMen hosts three Take the Lead events, two Heit's Point Retreats, one to two congregational movie nights, as well as breakfast/Bible Study events. JourneyMen is open to all men 18 and older. This year we will host our 3rd Annual – Get on the Journey study and breakfast with the theme *What TO Do When You Don't Know What to DO* on Saturday, February 17, 2018.

Personal: It truly is a blessing to have grown up at Timothy and now serve as a Pastor. The acceptance and support over the past years have been amazing! While times may seem challenging, one theme stands out--God Carries Us Through! God is greater than any difficulty we face. We live in a time when church is becoming less important to the American family. Together, God has called each of us to reach out and share His love with others. It is only through serving together that we can grow God's Kingdom and church. We don't have to accept what the statistics say--God is great than that! 2018 is about building relationships, broken and new, and inviting them into our church, our home! Join me in making Timothy a place where people will want to praise and worship God. Let's make Timothy OUR church that we share with others. Touching Lives for Christ . . . because it matters!

Care Minister—Nancy Nowiszewski

New in 2017: *Live Well* is an 8-week program that examines physical and spiritual elements of a person's life and how that impacts his/her emotional well-being. Fourteen people attended the first offering of the class in the fall; a second class will likely be offered after the first of the year.

Emergency Assistance: Provided to community as well as Timothy members. During the first 10 months of 2017, we helped 75 community families with utilities, lodging and gasoline for a total of \$7,065. We also helped 6 Timothy families with a total of \$4,755 for living expenses. In addition to financial assistance, each receives spiritual support with personal prayer and a Bible. Timothy also provides \$100/week to Hillcrest Transitional Housing through our sponsorship of an apartment at the Lee's Summit location. Volunteers on Team Timothy support our residents by cleaning and maintaining the apartment and providing gifts and food for our residents' graduations.

Continuing in 2017—Compassionate Care: We give thanks that we have the resources to provide transitional housing for a woman and her four children, ages 3-18, who had been living in a local motel. The purchase of a house by a Timothy member for this purpose, as well as furniture and food donations from other members, made this possible. Our assistance funds provided nearly \$800 for utilities and household items since the family moved into the house. Two Timothy members provide ongoing support in areas of budgeting and planning for the family's future housing, as well as spiritual support for the mother. The family, who attends a nearby Christian church, will move to their own housing by the end of February, and we will take applications for a new family beginning Dec. 1, with the plan to have them move in by the end of March.

In 2017, we continued to build on our relationship with residents at the Welcome Inn by serving meals in February, April, May, September and November (a traditional Thanksgiving meal); an

estimated 100 meals are served each time with 150 meals served at Thanksgiving. During summer months, small groups and Bible study groups are encouraged to serve a meal.

Hillcrest Transitional Housing: Our Timothy teams, led by Joe and Sandy Sauter, clean and stock the Timothy-sponsored apartment for each new occupant and provide maintenance as needed. A warm meal is provided for the occupant's first night in the apartment. During this sixth year of sponsorship, members donated 6 baskets for the Fall Gala (9 members attended the banquet). We also helped celebrate each of our residents as they graduated from the program by attending the graduation meal and providing gifts. New in 2017 was the completion of a fourth building at the Lee's Summit complex, which was the first new construction in the history of Hillcrest. Timothy members attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony, where our Care Minister was asked to give the house blessing.

Journey to the Manger: is our annual Christmas adoption program; for 2017, we will provide 51 gifts for individuals through the Community Services League, 40 gifts for Hillcrest individuals, 60 gifts for community families, and 27 gifts for Timothy members. In addition, LWML members adopted 20 children at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church-- Kansas City by providing gifts for their Christmas party.

Stephen Ministry: We welcomed four new ladies commissioned as Stephen Ministers on April 22, bringing our current list of active Stephen Ministers to 15 in addition to two Stephen Leaders.

Life Lines (support groups): These ministries reach out to people dealing with specific needs or concerns and include Christ-centered studies as well as fellowship with others who are dealing with the same issue. Current Life Lines groups include DivorceCare, GriefShare, Break Time and Teen Club, and SIDS. We offered a 'Surviving the Holidays' grief care workshop on Nov. 11 and a 'Surviving the Holidays' divorce care workshop on Nov. 14. A set of 4 grief booklets is mailed to members throughout the first year after they have lost a close relative.

Prayer Ministry: Continued to provide printed prayers for weekend services plus weekly electronic updates, as well as prayers for the prayer chain. New in 2017: the remodeling of the prayer room at the North campus by member Pam Dennis. Also, two prayer services were led by the pastors, in June and October.

One-to-One Ministry: Cards sent to those who have been included in weekly prayers; CD's of the weekly sermon copied for mailing to the homebound.

Communications: With Diane Mayfield, continued planning, writing and editing quarterly issues of *Get Connected* and *Celebrate*.

12th Annual Adam's Army Blood Drive was held on June 4 at the North Campus. A record-breaking 88 pints of usable blood was donated, the largest one-day ever for the Community Blood Center. This year's theme: "Give Blood! You're Somebody's Type!" Thrivent generously donated funds for door prizes and a meal for donors.

Flu Shots were offered through the HyVee mobile unit on Oct. 15 at the North Campus.

I serve as staff liaison to the GIVE Commission, which continues to focus on stewardship education and connecting members to service opportunities. For 2017, we introduced the spiritual gifts inventory as part of the November sermon series, in addition to a method for people to connect

their gifts to Timothy's ministries. Also new in 2017 was an opportunity for members to give financially to ministries through an app for both Android and iPhone owners. Also, a card indicating online giving by members for placement in the offering plate was introduced in November.

I also serve as staff connection for Women of Hope, which plans ministry events for women, including retreats and an annual prayer breakfast. Coming in 2018, Women of Hope will host a Sweet Life Café one-day retreat on Feb. 18.

Other: Attended the Best Practices for Ministry conference in Phoenix in Feb; key find was the book *Ask, Thank, Tell*, whose concepts we have incorporated into ministry plans.

For 2018, plans are in progress to explore two new areas in Care Ministry:

- To consider how to add support to individuals and families who deal with cancer; two Stephen Ministers and the Care Minister will attend training provided by Cancer Companions at Timothy in Feb.; we will serve as the host site.
- To attend training for developing a level of care to members that would complement the Stephen Ministry program. Two-three Stephen Ministers and the Care Minister will attend the April training in Leawood, KS.

School Ministry and School Board—Ken Holland, Principal and Randy McClain, Board President

School Principal—Ken Holland; ECC Director—Patty Koogler; Director of Development for School Ministries—Steve Patton

School Board—President Randy McClain, Vice President Rachel Pierce; Secretary Ken Logan; Members Melissa Casper, Sue Miller, Nathan Parker and Karl Zinke.

The newly created School Board started in January 2015 and has met monthly ever since. Beginning in January 2018, two new members will replace the expired terms of Ken Logan and Randy McClain.

An ongoing goal of the School Board is to continue to Touch Lives for Christ by increasing the visibility, name recognition and positive impression of Timothy Lutheran School Ministries to share the Good News of God's Word every day with more and more children. The teachers at our Early Childhood Center and Timothy Lutheran School relate Jesus to every aspect of the curriculum. Teachers and students share the love of Jesus and His forgiveness. Lives are being transformed.

The current ECC enrollment of 111 is the highest ever, and there is a waiting list. The current TLS enrollment is 72 full time and 14 home school students, which represents a 15% increase.

Timothy Lutheran Early Childhood Center and Elementary School have earned continued accreditation through Missouri Non-Public School Accreditation Association (MNSAA) and National Federation of Nonpublic School State Accreditation Associations (NFSSAA). Students have consistently scored 1 year to 2 ½ years above grade level in nationally normed assessments.

Ken Holland, an energetic, enthusiastic and budget-minded Timothy member, was employed as principal.

Thanks to a very generous donor, the position of Director of Development was created, filled by Steve Patton, a Timothy member and school parent.

Thanks to ECC Director Patty Koogler for bearing the burden of performing additional duties of cook, secretary and substitute teacher when the ECC was without and while personally sacrificing her time, saving Timothy many dollars.

Employed a veteran and innovative music teacher, Timothy member Judy MacLean, who has also served as a Lutheran school administrator in her career.

Ronda Krekel completed the LCMS Colloquy program and accepted an official call from the congregation.

Thanks to a generous donor, our ECC and TLS have dramatically increased their online presence and recognition through the School Ministries website.

Thanks to school board member Karl Zinke for greatly increasing ECC and TLS social media presence through Twitter.

Thanks to school board member Rachel Pierce for her efforts with Kate Force, a Timothy member and school parent, to increase communication with TLS/ECC/church families as well as reach out to the community using Facebook.

Thanks to a generous donor, a new school sign was added last year, making the school more visible from Highway 7.

The school board with TLS parent has a Marketing Committee and plans to share the news of TLS at the Midwest Christian Education Expo for 2018 satellite open house in Lee's Summit and many other methods to spread the word of Timothy Lutheran School Ministries.

Through a generous donation, hundreds of yard signs and thousands of door hangers were distributed to publicize our ECC and TLS.

Thanks to Ken Logan's business and promotion expertise, many of the above mentioned were initiated and made possible.

ECC has expanded at the North Campus by enrolling additional students. A new ECC class was started and filled at the South Campus and now has a waiting list.

Thanks to a generous donor, the school board has been offered mobile classroom opportunities to accommodate increasing ECC South Campus and TLS enrollment.

An ongoing goal of the school board is continuing to investigate and implement fundraising and financial means to lessen the congregation's commitment to School Ministry from the Timothy operating budget.

The School Ministries auctions of the past 2 years have earned over \$20,000 each year. The rummage sale raised over \$6,000. A fundraiser asking that those who eat at Chipotle on Monday, Oct. 30, mention Timothy Lutheran School Ministries netted 50% of the proceeds from 4-8pm, bringing in over \$1,000.

Director of Development Steve Patton has worked with board member Rachel Pierce to increase the use of Scrip Now, a fundraiser that costs nothing and has tremendous potential.

Steve is working on a fundraiser with MOD Pizza similar to the one with Chipotle in addition to exploring a golf tournament and an arts & crafts fair.

The ECC and TLS scholarship application and selection process were completely redesigned and restructured. ECC and TLS reimburse the church budget significantly more than in past years.

The ECC and TLS tuition process was completely redesigned and restructured.

- The early tuition payment discount was discontinued.
- The multiple child discount was discontinued.
- Scholarship awards to non-staff will be limited to 50% of the total tuition for each student.
- Adopted a 17% tuition increase for ECC extended care part time two days per week program; a 15% tuition increase for ECC extended care part time three days per week program; a 7% tuition increase for ECC extended care part time five days per week program; and 4% tuition increase for Pre-K extended care for the 2018-2019 school year. ECC is currently very competitive with local programs in Blue Springs.
- Adopted 6% increase in TLS tuition compared to 3% from past years, bringing TLS tuition for 2018-2019 a total of \$5,060 which is an increase of \$286.50 annually.

Established the Timothy Lutheran School Ministries Education Foundation to generate funds for financial operations, development and expansion of TLSM. Steve Patton plans to embark on a letter-writing campaign to TLS parents (and grandparents where possible) who do not attend Timothy; parents of students who graduated from TLS who do not attend Timothy; former Timothy members who may have an interest in the success of TLS; board members of the Independence and Blue Springs Chambers of Commerce; and affluent, civic-minded people who want to see community success.

The Timothy Lutheran School Ministries Board and administration is excited and thankful for the many positive actions and direction that God has led the ECC and TLS Ministry.

Worship Arts Minister—Kent Burns

I've been blessed to serve at Timothy for 15 years in the areas of Worship and the Arts. I thank God for the opportunity and ability to do so. I'm very blessed by the many faithful volunteers who make my ministry among you a blessing.

My regular duties include planning/scheduling/implementing/evaluating worship. I also oversee the worship planning process and am intricately involved in the leadership of KPT, Celebration Praise Choir, and the SOJ worship team. In addition, I also helped to accomplish the following this past year:

- We continued to improve technology for worship and upgrade both North and South Campus worship. The sound board at the North Campus now has a decent size counter with everything within reach for the technicians.
- We trained three new sound technicians for worship this year: Mitch Leakey (Sat.), Janna Huddleston (Sanctuary), and Jessica Osborne (South).
- Started South Campus Greeter Ministry. They arrive 15 – 20 minutes before worship to welcome people for worship and then place themselves at the doors as people leave following worship.
- We worked on updating wireless microphones to comply with FCC regulations.
- Hosted *Children of the World* concert on Nov. 8.

- Christmas Musical: Sunday, Dec. 10, 6pm. We will present two musicals: *Jingle Bell Beach* and *Wonder and Glory*. The children of the congregation/school will sing along with the adult choirs and narrators as we retell the story of Christmas. Come for an enjoyable seasonal event.

Future Goals: Want to work on re-implementing Greeter Ministry at North Campus. Regarding technology, we're studying the possibility of switching from PowerPoint in worship to the use of a program such as ProPresenter which would give us more flexibility in what we can do with the projection in worship and imaging.

COMMISSIONS

GATHER Commission

Members include Val Leakey (Commission Leader), Gene Bond, Nancy Bond, Gayl Calvin, Alex Burns, Bob Logan, Kyle Oelkhaus and Kent Burns.

Timothy Lutheran is blessed to have such a dedicated called staff, support staff and numerous groups of willing volunteers that join together to plan and implement meaningful worship services of vibrant music and participation week after week. The GATHER Commission would like to recognize and thank this special group of people.

GATHER Commission Accomplishments in 2017:

- Reviewed and provided input for Timothy Strategic Planning Goals.
- Continued to improve technology within the worship service and upgraded for the needs of both North & South Campus worship services.
- Worked on updating wireless microphones to comply with FCC regulations.
- Designed and built a rolling platform for the drum enclosure at South Campus for easier stage/worship service setup and takedown.
- Hosted the *Children of the World* concert with 14 choir members from the Philippines, Nepal, Uganda and Honduras. Two performances occurred on Nov. 8, one for ECC/TLS during the day and one in the evening for approximately 300 people from Timothy and the community.
- Designed and built a movable platform to increase the area of the raised platform in the front of the sanctuary at North Campus. This was used for the *Children of the World* concert and will also be used annually for VBS.

GATHER Commission Proposals for 2018:

- Continue the process of studying ways to increase the level of worship participation and frequency of attendance through special events and relevant, meaningful worship services.

GROW Commission

Members include Mary Reed (Commission Leader), Jacob Gorrow, Ryan Kuecker, Mary Low, Dawn Twenter, Richard Pirch, Diane Mayfield, Pastor Rod Lindemann and Pastor John Otte.

2017 Accomplishments:

- Continued support of current ministries: GROW Commission invited leaders of each ministry area to report on the group's activities, plans for the upcoming year, and especially challenges

the group is facing (Children's Ministry, Middle School/Confirmation, Senior High, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, LWML, Senior Adults). Commission members assisted with any identified needs, such as recruitment and advertising.

- Confirmation Prayer Pals: This program, which had occurred in the past, was successfully revived. Confirmation students are paired with adult congregation members who volunteer to pray for and support the student. In spring 2017, the program began with pals for 8th grade Confirmands only. In the fall, it was expanded to include all Confirmation students in grades 6-8. Currently, 46 adult members serve as prayer pals. The Commission oversees the program.
- Middle School Ministry: Pastor John leads a team of parents to develop and support this ministry. A kickoff event was held in August, with activities planned through the end of the year. Excitement is high, and events have been attended by approximately 20 youth.
- VBS Follow Up: Postcards were sent to follow up with families whose children attended Vacation Bible School. An email was also sent to all families, inviting them to participate in the fall Children's Ministry opportunities on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.
- Children's Ministry Kickoff: Kickoff events for the fall Cross Walk program, Faith Roots and The Rock were held in September.
- Kindergarten Blessing/Backpack Blessing: During services on August 12-13, all students from kindergarten through college received a blessing and a small token to place on their backpacks. Commission members developed promotional materials and assisted with the event.
- Weekly Bible Study: The weekly tri-fold announcement which lists Bible Study opportunities was reorganized so that studies are listed by participant group, rather than by day of the week, to make it easier for anyone interested to identify a fitting group.
- Seniors Ministry: This group is active and thriving, with regular Bible study and social opportunities available.
- Young Adult Ministry: This group was formed for young adults in their 20's & 30's. Regular Bible study and social events are planned, with approximately 10 in attendance.

Future Goals:

- Perform regular ministry reviews to identify groups whose needs are not being met.
- Explore and develop discipleship "pathways" to reach people wherever they are in their faith journey and encourage them to continue growing in faith through worship participation, Bible study, service and stewardship. This will involve continued support of current ministry groups and development of new opportunities.
- Encourage and support Celebration Events to recognize milestones in our faith lives.
- Integrate the "Ask, Thank, Tell" stewardship program into Commission's activities and programs.
- Develop a means of supporting Timothy's college students at home and away.
- Continue support of the newly formed Middle School Ministry leadership team as well as the Confirmation Prayer Pals program.
- Continue to develop and facilitate communication with the congregation so that members are aware of spiritual growth opportunities.

GIVE Commission

Members include Pam Sbisa (Commission Leader), Chris Hruska, Carol Schemmer, Diane Mayfield, Tary Krahenbuhl and Nancy Nowiszewski.

Major Initiatives:

- Continued support for and nexus of coordination for fundraising activities at both campuses.
- Continue to support Timothy's role and presence in the Hillcrest Transitional Housing program.
- Supported and maintained ongoing communication about offering envelopes and promotion of online giving.
- Supported the Connections Coordinator volunteer position to communicate needs for volunteers and facilitating placement of volunteers to various ministries.
- Continued to support a relationship with Welcome Inn of Blue Springs as an outreach opportunity by providing meals.
- Continued to support the implementation of the Compassionate Care Program.
- Supported the development of a Spiritual Gifts Inventory.
- Supported the use of the book *Ask, Thank, Tell* as a tool for increasing awareness of stewardship and discipleship.

Focus for 2018:

- Educate members about Apps that can be used for contributions/donations.
- Continue to support the use of the Spiritual Gifts Inventory to match members with Timothy opportunities.
- Continue to develop ways to educate members about stewardship and discipleship.
- Continue to support the families participating in the Compassionate Care Program.

GO Commission

Members include Kathy Wildschuetz (Commission Leader), Courtney Dryer, Carol Cronkhite, Charlie Cronkhite, Carol Windler and Pastor Rich Steensma.

2017 Accomplishments:

- Sent undesignated tithes to Concordia Seminary.
- In June, Kathy & Carol Cronkhite attended the one-day Plus One conference in St. Louis to learn ideas about helping congregations connect with their communities.
- Planned and implemented All-Church Picnic with approximately 135 in attendance. Send-off for Jake Bellinghausen to start classes at Seminary.
- Hosted Dan Schmelzer from Capstone Ministries for a weekend of sermons about that ministry.
- Coordinated Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection center at South Campus.
- Supported monthly food collection for LUMA, CSL and Hillcrest Transitional Housing.

Concerns and Goals:

- Outreach offerings to solicit more church members' involvement in community service projects.
- Adding "at large" members to GO Commission.

- GO Commission members to attend E2 Conference on Feb. 17, 2018.
- GO Commission members to participate in Everyone His Witness, an evangelism study, and then hopefully offer the study to the entire congregation.
- Continue to support Jake Bellinghausen in his seminary studies, through prayer and financial donations.

LWML Annual Report—Deanna Cross, President

Timothy LWML is currently blessed with 86 members who belong to one of three circles or are an Associate member. We also have Honorary members, long-time LWML members no longer able to attend or participate in the Circle or Society activities. All members serve the Lord with their God-given talents and abilities and share the love of Jesus through our various activities and servant events. Some of the many activities at the Society level include:

- Supported LUMAA and its in-gatherings
- Donated baby blankets to Truman Medical Center
- Supported Timothy's VBS program with outreach to over 300 children
- Made shawls for the Prayer Shawl Ministry at Timothy
- Monetary gift for our pastors during Clergy Appreciation Month
- Hosted a "Girls Event" with wedding theme for all women of the congregation and their guests
- Collected items for the Urban Christmas Store, VBS, and school supplies
- Supported Operation Christmas Child
- Monetary donation to Comfort Dog Ministry
- Monetary and in-gatherings for Newhouse Domestic Shelter
- Held activities for LWML Sunday
- Sold nuts and candies with proceeds to support Mites, Timothy's Care Ministry, and Fellowship Hall kitchen countertops replacement
- Participated in LUMAA cookie packing for Christmas and Easter
- Served Ash Wednesday Lenten Dinner
- Organized and served bereavement luncheons
- Attended "New Member" luncheons to provide information about LWML and invite new members to LWML

Activities of our circles, in addition to participating in the above society events, include the following:

- Elizabeth Circle is a young women's circle with 9 members. Some of their church projects include maintaining the children's worship bags and nursery/children's supplies. Elizabeth Circle sends cards to shut-ins, veterans and college freshmen. They also facilitate Timothy's Lutherans for Life Diaper Drive, held from Mother's Day through Father's Day. They are very excited that one of their circle members, Katie Smith, will attend the LWML Convention as a MO District YWR.
- Mary Martha Circle collected items and assembled hygiene kits for homeless shelters; collected an assembled personal care/school supplies/baby care kits for Lutheran World Relief; created devotion booklets for the homeless kits and for visits to shut-ins; visited and delivered fruit, cookies and flowers to shut-ins; prepared diaper bundles and Mommy Bags for Rachel House; adopted a patient at Truman Medical Center for Christmas.

- Ruth Circle projects included making Baptismal and Confirmation banners. They sponsored in-gatherings throughout the year to support various projects, some of which are the MO District Lutheran Disaster Relief; Truman Medical Center (baby blankets); Mother's Refuge; Timothy's Break Time; Timothy youth attending LCMS Youth Gathering; LUMAA in-gatherings to include Urban food pantries, winter necessities, baby kits, hygiene kits and VBS/school supplies. Ruth Circle also sent money to the Seminary Food Bank in St. Louis, donated money to Timothy's Journey to the Manger, and donated funds to enhance Timothy's landscaping. They prepared several Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes and donated over \$100 for shipping them.

All circles have secret prayer sisters, host Christmas gatherings, and support and minister to their circle members as Sisters in Christ. May God continue to bless our Timothy LWML with servant hearts as we are willing to serve whenever and wherever the Lord has need of us.

Festival Committee Report—Tary Krahenbuhl and Louie Wilbers, co-chairs

Committee members include Becky Barnett, Rod Barnett, Marty Boison, Tary Krahenbuhl, Mickey Krahenbuhl, Viv Bradshaw, Chris Bradshaw, Kris Burns, Loretta Burns, Gordon Thompson, Laurie Herz, Ron Herz, Becky Blatt, Erik Blatt, Chris Hruska, Connie Hruska, Becky Ryan, Wes MacLean, Randy Lindemann, Nancy Lindemann, Shirley Meineka, Chris Sims, Kelley Sims, Sherry Holt, Kathy Wilbers and Louie Wilbers.

Purpose: The Festival Committee exists to provide an outreach opportunity to the Blue Springs community and an internal reach to Timothy Lutheran members at the annual Fall Fun Fest sponsored by the Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce. Members of Timothy are provided the opportunity to fellowship with one another as well as witness in word and deed to approximately 15,000 Festival attendees as we carry out Jesus' Great Commission of reaching others for Him.

Goals: Funds generated by the activities of this committee will support non-budgeted needs of Timothy Lutheran Church and for operating expenses of Festival Committee operations. It is preferred but not required that the funding needs of Timothy provided by the Committee be property-related improvements or repairs.

Activity in 2017:

- 2017 Festival Profit of \$25,351
- T-shirts for helpers
- Tithe to Seminary student Jake Bellinghausen
- Completion of the Skylight replacement at North Campus
- Purchased commercial carpet cleaner for both campuses

Goals for 2018:

- Lighting for building perimeter security
- Drainage control for playground area

Account Balances:

Checking \$7,348

Savings	\$90,173
Total	\$97,522

BOARDS

Executive Board

Members include President Ben Ryan; Vice Presidents Diane Mayfield, Carol Cronkhite, Gene Bond; Secretary Charlie Johnson; Treasurer Gary Williams; and Staff Liaison Pastor Rich Steensma.

Timothy's Executive Board meets regularly to:

- Oversee the general business of the church
- Allocate available funds for the operation of the church
- Review and support policies of commissions and committees
- Prepare and present a proposed budget for upcoming fiscal year to the Voters' Assembly at its annual meeting
- Prepare and present Annual Reports of Timothy's ministries to the Voters' Assembly at its annual meeting
- Prepare and present long-range goals for the development and expansion of Christ's work in our midst
- Compose and approve minutes of all congregational meetings

Activity in 2017:

- Continued to increase efforts to improve communication with the congregation through various formats, including but not limited to Town Hall meetings, small group Cottage Meetings, written editions of *Get Connected* and *Celebrate*, improved church website, oral announcements in services, weekly emails of *Ministry Matters*, and special or annual Voters' Assembly meetings.
- Continued regular monitoring of church finances and communication to the congregation.
- Presented 2017 Operating Budget to congregation in April for final adoption.
- Studied *Ask, Thank, Tell* by Charles R. Lane and initiated implementation of principles in the book for a new approach to stewardship and discipleship.
- Initiated formation of a Legacy program for Timothy to assist members wanting to include Timothy in their wills and/or trusts.
- Approved sale of 23 acres of the South Campus property.
- Re-listed 7 acres of frontage property along Highway 7 at South Campus.
- Organized and led Ministry in Action Budget Review Cottage Meetings in both March and October to solicit input from congregation for the budget process.
- Organized and led All-Commission Meeting to orientate and assist commissions and committees, continuing to assist throughout the year as needed.
- Supported School Ministry during ECC classroom expansion at both campuses.
- Allocated scholarship funds from Gerike Endowment Fund (Seminary student) and Wilson Endowment Fund (high school students).
- Appointed Nominating Committee to prepare slate of officers for next biennium for Voters' Assembly approval at annual meeting in Dec.

Executive Elders

Members include Gary Flandermeyer (Director), Steve Schild (Assistant Director), Rick Little (Secretary), Kyle Oelklaus, Charlie Cronkhite, Jacob Gorrow and Tary Krahenbuhl. In addition to the seven elected elders forming the Executive Elders, there are 28 appointed elders.

Activity in 2017:

- Meetings: five Executive Elder meetings, one All-Commission Meeting, and four Joint Executive Board/Executive Elders
- Worship Assistance: Carried out assigned duties in assisting with worship services and funerals at both campuses. In addition, the Elders assisted in leading North Campus 9:45am non-communion services as requested by the Senior Pastor.
- Monthly Reports: Reviewed and approved monthly reports for membership, worship attendance, and Associate Pastor and Senior Pastor reports at each Executive Elders meeting.
- Mailings: Prepared and issued one neighborhood contact letter to congregation prior to the Lenten/Easter services. Postcards were issued to members for the Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas season.
- Call Process: Participated in the call process for the Timothy Lutheran School Principal. Ken Holland was selected as the interim TLS principal.
- Ask, Thank, Tell: Initiated this program and attended organizational meetings.
- Worker Support Teams: Investigated implementation of WST to enhance the effectiveness of church workers by providing support to them and their families. Met with Gene Wyssmann from the District Office in October to discuss implementation.
- Elders Membership Policy: Revised and approved policy to include an ongoing process for intentional contact with members who are not participating in worship attendance. "We Miss You" postcards were issued monthly beginning in January. Approximately 225 member-release letters were issued to inactive members in July.
- "Whiteboard Items": Member input received in small group meetings conducted in December 2016 to February 2017 was summarized in "whiteboard items" for monitoring with ongoing action and review.

Goals for 2018:

- Continue implementation of the "Ask, Thank, Tell" program.
- Consider implementation of Worker Support Teams.
- Continue action on status of "whiteboard items".
- Conduct Elder duties relative to worship service assistance and attendance at all required meetings.
- Continue to review, monitor and act upon improvement of membership and weekly worship attendance.
- Continue to coordinate Elder efforts with the four commissions.
- Continue to conduct elder training.
- Conduct a congregational survey.
- Continue to review worship policies and processes to the glory of His name.

- Continue to assist and pray for all Timothy staff, especially the called ministry staff, in “Touching Lives for Christ.”

COMMITTEES

Personnel Committee

Members include Carol Cronkhite (chair), Mark Meyer, Kyle Oelkhaus, Cindy Westermann, Warren Fischer, Robin McClain and Pastor Rich Steensma.

Activity in 2017:

- All job descriptions were reviewed, updated and approved.
- Primary ongoing responsibility for all school positions was transferred to the School Ministries School Board. Changes will be sent to Personnel Committee for final approval.
- Policy for vacation accrual was amended to ensure vacation is taken by the end of each calendar year unless special approval is received from the Personnel Committee. Staff has until the end of 2018 to use all current accruals.

Property Committee

Members include Roland Frerking (director), Charlie Duffy, Viv Bradshaw, Dick Blasé and Steve Hatfield.

Activity in 2017:

- Assisted when requested during the North Campus skylight replacement process.
- Continued to consult with church staff regarding buildings and grounds issues.