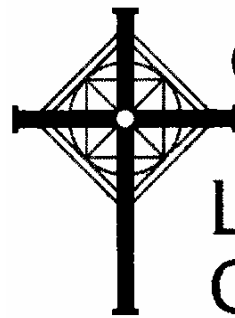


# CROSS OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Brookfield, WI 53045-4030

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## **Annual Report 2007**

***Congregational  
Meeting  
February 10, 2008***

# 2008 Annual Meeting of the Congregation

February 10, 2008

## Opening Devotion

One: Quick, let's do a mission statement word association exercise. I say, "snow shoveling," you say....

**Many: SERVE!**

One: Okay, how about "singing in the choir?"

**Many: Easy, that's, WORSHIP!**

One: What if I say, "teach VBS?"

**Many: No problem, LEARN!**

One: You sure? Couldn't it be SERVE?

**Many: Maybe. But, when you teach you have to learn first, so we sticking with LEARN.**

One: Good call. How about, "weakly shake the hand of someone you don't know?"

**Many: That's a no-compute, fatal error, sort of message.**

One: How about, "introduce yourself to someone you don't know and if they're a visitor welcome them to COL?"

**Many: That would be a definite INVITE!**

One: Great. I think you have it. So, here's the tough one I've been saving up for you. I say, "spend a Wednesday evening at Cross of Life during Lent?"

**Many** *(accelerate as you speak)* **Warning! Possible answer overload! We sit down for soup, sometimes with people we don't know, that's INVITE. Kids are in confirmation and Lent School, that's LEARN! We make delicious soup and use the offering of the night for one of our partners, that's SERVE. And of course, we go to the sanctuary and WORSHIP! Wow, what a night!**

One: Don't miss Wednesdays. And, don't miss any chance you have this year, to live Into our common challenge...

**Many: When it comes to WORSHIP, LEARN, SERVE, AND INVITE.....**

One: May EACH ONE, ADD ONE!

**Many: What a sight to see that will be! Amen.**

Reading: Luke 7:1-10

Thoughts and Prayer

John Horner-Ibler

# ***Agenda for 2008 Annual Congregational Meeting***

Slide Show

Call to Order..... Kathy Kramer, President

Opening Devotions..... Pastor John Horner-Ibler

## **Determination of Quorum ~ 131 Confirmed Members Needed**

**Approval of Minutes:**

2007 Annual Meeting ..... February 4, 2007

Congregational Meeting ..... September 29 & 30, 2007

*Each One Add One*.....

**Approval of the Pastors' Reports**

•Pastor ..... John Horner-Ibler

•Pastor ..... Sherrie Lorbeck

•2007 Statistics

**Approval of the Congregation Council's Reports**

•Congregation President..... Kathy Kramer

•Christian Education ..... Nicki Shady

•Adult Programs..... Irene Secora

•New Members ..... Laura Weber

•Finance..... Craig Nelson

•Property..... Glenn Turco

•Servant Ministries..... Sheila Schrieber

•Stewardship..... Paul Patt

•Worship ..... Marv Wunder

•Youth ..... Mike Gutzeit

Youth Representatives: Becca Hoesly, John Koeble

**Approval of Staff Reports**

•Director of Adult Programs ..... Susie Hilgart

•Director of Christian Education ..... Jo Ann Tomm

•Director of Music Ministry ..... Christine Standley

•Director of Youth Ministry ..... Molly Miller

**2007 Financial Reports and 2008 Budget**..... Paul Knowles

**Elections:**

**Nominating Committee** (need 3)

**Delegates to Synod Assembly** - May 29-31 ~ Country Springs Resort- Pewaukee (Thursday afternoon-Saturday morning)

*(4 – preferably 2 male, 2 female)*

**Elect New Chair of Group Opportunities Team to Council** .....

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment ..... Kathy Kramer

Closing Prayer..... Pastor Sherrie Lorbeck

**Cross of Life Lutheran Church  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

Slide Show & Counting for Quorum present.

**Call To Order** by Mark Krause @ **9:50am**

The Proposed Mission Statement was read to congregation:

*Through the Holy Spirit, we are inspired by the Good News of Jesus Christ to Love our neighbors as ourselves, reaching out to the world as we worship, learn, serve and invite in his name.*

**Opening Devotion and Reading:** Pastor Sherrie

**Msc>>** to approve the Minutes from last January's Annual Meeting, the meeting to call Pastor Sherrie and the meeting to elect new Council members.

**Worship Interlude:** Marv Wunder, Christine Standley and Mark Krause

**Approval of Pastor's Reports** – statistics regarding attendance presented as well as information printed in the Annual Report.

**Msc>>** to approve Pastor's Reports.

**Introduction of Council Members**

Adult Education

Irene Secora

Christian Education

Kathy Kramer

Fellowship

Bronwyn Graves

Finance

Craig Nelson

New Members

Laura Weber

Property & Congregation Secretary

Bob Baudo

Servant Ministries

Shelia Schrieber

Stewardship

Paul Patt

Worship and Music

Marv Wunder

Youth and Congregation VP

Mike Gutzeit

Youth Representatives

Bethany Von Hoff and Rob Perry

Congregation Treasurer

Kirk Hegna

Council Recording Secretary

Carol Perry

Congregation President

Mark Krause

**Introduction of Staff**

Director of Adult Programs

Susie Hilgart

Director of Christian Education

Jo Ann Tomm

Director of Music Ministry

Christine Standley

Director of Adult Choirs

Rebekah Wickert

**Msc>>**to approve the council and staff reports.

**Learn Interlude:** Kirk Hegna

**2006 Financial Reports and 2007 Budget:** Kirk Hegna

Benevolence for 2006 increased to 19%, amount budgeted for staff was less due to one pastor for part of the time, contingency fund established with a starting amount of \$5000.

*Motion to set aside a contingency fund with a goal to reach equivalent of one month's operating budget amount without restrictions to be established for the purpose of major expenditures or other needs as determined by council.*

The above motion for the contingency fund, created by the Council, was presented to the congregation for approval. Questions were raised regarding usage of the contingency fund.

**Msc>>**to approve the contingency fund wording with “Subject to existing congregation bylaws.” included at the end.

The approved wording now reads: *Approval to set aside a contingency fund with a goal to reach equivalent of one month’s operating budget amount without restrictions to be established for the purpose of major expenditures or other needs as determined by council, subject to existing congregation bylaws.*

**Msc>>** to accept 2006 financial report.

**Explanation of 2007 budget highlighting changes from 2006.**

**Msc>>** to accept 2007 budget.

**Service Interlude:** Pastor Sherrie Lorbeck

**Elections:**

1. **Nominating Committee:** Council President requested volunteers.
  1. David Boyd
  2. Julie Hoesly
  3. Sharon Roeder
  4. Rhonda Nelson

**Msc>>** to approve the above Nominating Committee.

**Delegates to Synod Assembly:** Council President requested volunteers.

1. Jency Engle
2. David Engle
3. Jeff Key
4. Lynn Key

**Msc>>** to accept the Engles & the Keys as delegates to the Synod Assembly.

**Invite Interlude:** Laura Weber and Bronwyn Graves

2007 Goals developed by the Council & Staff after assessing results of Great Expectations gathering were shared with the congregation.

- *Intentionally integrate and engage all members in the life of the congregation.*
- *Articulate, inform, and follow through on Great Expectations in a meaningful way.*

**Mission Statement:** Discussion and Approval

*Through the Holy Spirit, we are inspired by the Good News of Jesus Christ to Love our neighbors as ourselves, reaching out to the world as we worship, learn, serve and invite in his name.*

It is the opinion of the council and staff that we need a new, concise and action focused mission statement for COL.

**Msc>>** to accept the new mission statement.

**Old Business:** Thank previous outgoing Council Members

Jan Zimmerman- Adult Ed.  
Susan Wick-Servant Ministries  
Tom Leeds- Stewardship

**New Business:** No new business.

**Proclamation of Appreciation for 10 years of service by John Horner-Ibler and gift of a tree planted in his name.** (species to be determined by Pastor John)

**Msc>>** to adjourn the 2007 annual meeting.

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor John

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Perry  
Recording Secretary

## Minutes from Council Elections

Saturday, September 29, 2007

Sunday, September 30, 2007

September 29, 2007

Mark Krause nominated council members as indicated on ballots.

Mark asked for nominations from the floor.

Motion to close nominations made and seconded.

Read by-laws and explained.

Motion to adjourn until next service (Sun. 9/30/07 @8:30 a.m.).

Motion made and seconded.

September 30, 2007

Mark Krause opened the meeting to elect new council members. The slate of candidates was as follows:

- ❑ President - Kathy Kramer
- ❑ Treasurer - Paul Knowles
- ❑ Christian Ed - Nicki Shady
- ❑ Youth - Mike Gutzeit
- ❑ Worship & Music - Marv Wunder
- ❑ Property - Glenn Turco

Mark asked for nomination from the floor for council positions three times. He then asked for a motion to close nominations. He received that and nominations were closed.

The second part of the meeting was to approve having By-Law II, Part I be changed to read, "The Annual Meeting of the congregation shall be held no later than the second weekend of February".

Mark asked for a motion to close the meeting until after the 11:00 service. The motion was given, was seconded and the meeting was adjourned until after the 11:00 service.

September 30, 2007

Immediately following the 11:00am service: Mark Krause resumed the meeting.

The same ballot was presented.

A request for additional nominations from the floor was requested three times.

MSC>> to close nominations.

MSC>> to approve the bylaw change.

MSC>> to close the meeting.

Count of Ballots

40 - 5:00 service

103 - 8:30 service

66 - 11:00 service

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209 Total

There were no write in candidates.

**See what's happening at Cross of Life  
on the web:**

[www.crossoflife.org](http://www.crossoflife.org)

- Find the Weekend Worship Volunteer Schedule
- Find needed permission slips.
- Find out about our Partnerships.
- Check out upcoming activities at COL.

***Pastor's Reflection***  
**John Horner-Ibler**

*Here we are in the dead of winter. Wouldn't a fresh strawberry taste good about now?*

*We live in a time when some people lament our rootless society. People move frequently and few people seem to put down the deep roots that used to exist in small towns or cradle to grave membership at a church.*

*Of course, deep roots are great if you're an oak tree. They don't work so well if you're a strawberry plant. Strawberries are stolons, a class of plant related to the better-known rhizomes like asparagus, irises, lilies of the valley. Their shallow roots clump together in one spot and then send runners out to root downward in one spot, then another, and then another.*

*Personally, I think the strawberry analogy works best when it comes to Christ's people. We are a people who are constantly on the journey of faith. Rather than longing for deep roots, we are far more ourselves when we gather close together, and then spread ourselves to one new spot, need, or ministry after another. The result is rich, red, sweet fruit born for the kingdom of God.*

*Wouldn't a fresh strawberry taste good about now?*

For just a few moments, I'd like to invite you to do some long-range garden planning for this berry patch of ours known as Cross of Life. To plant wisely for the future always takes some knowledge of the past. Jump back in time with me to the year 2000.

Back in 2000 a group we called our CR-2 committee recommended that we stay on this site and add one final addition to this building. Though Cross of Life was growing steadily and our 2.9 acre a potential limiting factor, the wisdom of the CR-2 recommendation lay in its sense of stewardship. Moving and building elsewhere would have cost us \$5 million or up simply to replicate the type of facility we have here now.

It seemed a far better use of resources to instead spend \$1.8 million on the existing site, creating the most flexible and inviting facility possible. Such a facility could support many additional programs and members, assuming we were willing to invest the financial, and spiritual resources it took to add to the fruit borne by our petite but productive patch. Financially, at least, we figured you could do a heck of a lot of investing and never come close to needing to spend the \$3.2 million, we chose not to spend back in 2000.

Fast-forward now to today. In the past year our patch has grown substantially in two important areas of measurement. Adult member involvement in servant ministries and adult education programs was never higher than in 2007. Likewise, financial support of our ministries has never been stronger than during 2007. These are huge blessings received and shared through each of us as we seek to do our small part in the much larger Body of Christ.

Simultaneously, we were flat in two other important measures of our life together. Total membership (up slightly) and worship attendance (down slightly) did not change enough to be statistically significant. This is not particularly surprising, given the point we are at in our congregational history. At our current size and age, congregations often hit sort of a wall.

The critical issue is whether we push through the wall and continue to plant, spread, and bear fruit, or will we let the wall push us back into patterns that look more like that of a stately oak rather than an eagerly spreading strawberry?

With that in mind, let me engage you in some possibilities that come from many voices and places in our congregation...through me in this space....and to what lies ahead for all of us. Any of these possibilities will require resources of some sort. Given the wisdom of our decision 8 years ago, the resources are available in so many ways. It is up to us to prioritize and plant them in the most fertile soil.

1. **Each one, add one.** This is the Council's goal for all of us in 2008. Can each adult member of this congregation take one additional step in each of the four action verbs of our mission statement, **worship, learn, serve, & invite?** Were the 1,200+ adult members of this congregation each to do that, the fruit bourn would be staggering. **Once berries start to ripen, it's hard to keep up with the harvest!**

2. **Take practical step to regain our steady, historical 7% membership growth rate.**

- We have no desire to be a mega-church. We do have an ongoing desire for new involvement and fresh ideas. Spreading at a steady pace is what berry patches do best. This might mean doing something like adding a second week or section of VBS so that one of our best programs could be used as an outreach tool, something not currently possible in a program where enrollment is maxed out.
- It also means a likely adjustment to our Sunday morning schedule to restore our late service and Sunday School time to its place as an attractive, growing service that is especially welcoming to the visitors who tend to come at that service. **Blossoms come before berries.**

3. **Media as a way to build community.** Sooner better than later we need to move into visual media age in our sanctuary and fellowship hall. Relax, there are no plans to project the pastor or read our hymns off a screen. The sense of our Worship committee and staff is that such things are the *antithesis* of the personal and informal style of worship our congregation embraces.

On the other hand, we're totally missing the boat when it comes to showing an occasional picture or clip that allows you to see what a servant partnership, Sunday School project or some other important church project is actually like.

Getting effective, architecturally appropriate visual media in place will be ever more important to explaining and sustaining the ministries of our faith community. **Berries have to be seen before they can be picked.**

4. **Add A Service.** If we resume our historical growth trend we will need to add a fourth worship service sometime within the next 2-3 years. Would this be a mid-week service built around a simple meal in the fellowship hall followed by a meditative service in the sanctuary? Might it be a second Saturday night service or one on Sunday night which utilize media and music differently than our current services? Whatever we add should meet needs both within our existing membership and be attractive to those not yet here. We have the time to study it and then excel at whatever we choose to implement. **Berry plants don't become a patch overnight.**

5. **Plan Staffing and Mobilize Members for Excellence.** I'm not a big believer in burn-out. If people love what they do and are given the resources to do it, they thrive rather than incinerate. It's when the resources and the rewards are scant that personalities turn to toast. Over time, we will want to strategically add to our staff in areas like curriculum development, volunteer coordination, ministries aimed at the 20 and 30-something age range, etc. Cross of Life would also be an ideal placement site for seminary students doing their one-year congregational internship.

A smaller building (and therefore the need for more services and the staff to lead them) is the "price" for having stayed on this site, but in comparison to what we might have paid, it's a small price indeed. Excellent ministries are resourced by a professional staff but are best envisioned and then done by members who mobilize to *be* the church not just *go* to church. **Strawberries are not so much an end product unto themselves but a vessel for all the seeds from which more and future berries arise.**

*That's a lot to think about isn't it? Some of it will never happen. Some of it will go in different directions and some of it is exactly what all of us know needs to happen and so it will. These are the things good congregations pray about, dream about, get excited about, and then stick their necks out for! All of which is a berry good idea, wouldn't you agree? (You knew that was coming, right?!)*

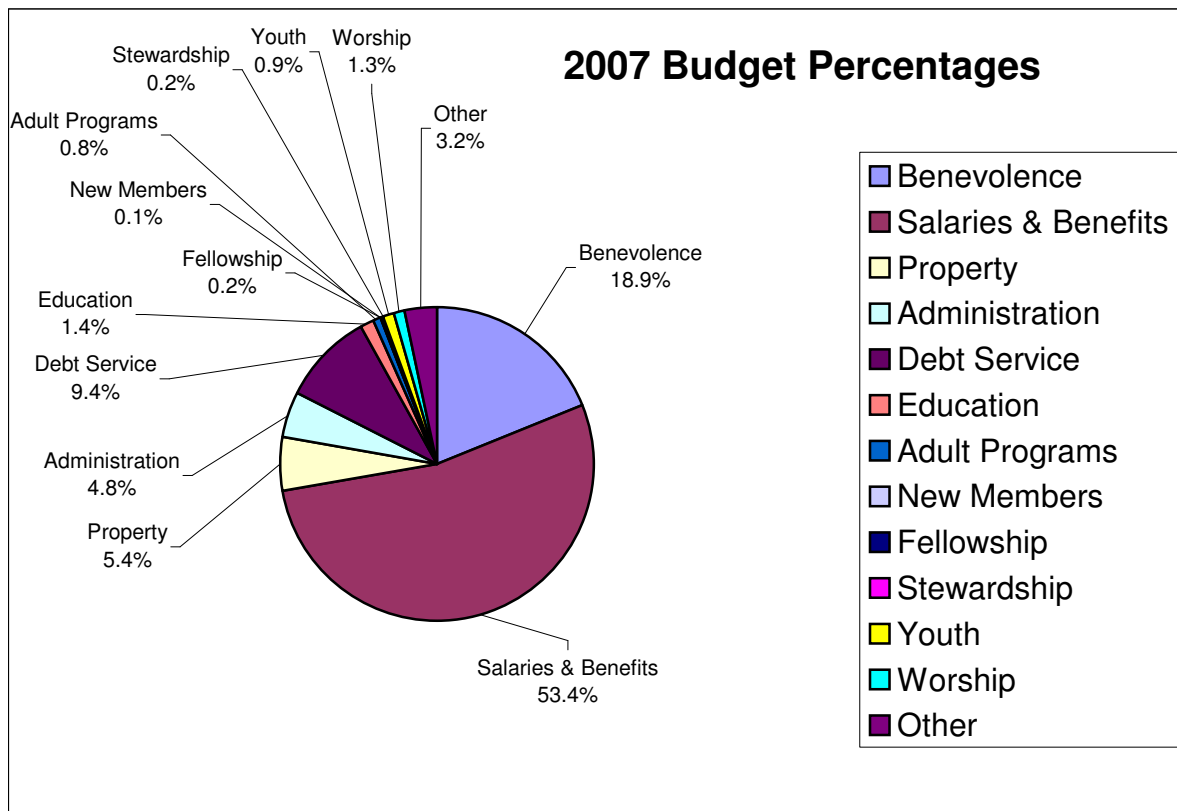
*~John*

**Pastor's Reflection**  
**Sherrie Lorbeck**

In looking back on 2007, it was amazing to see the giving that came in during the month of December, which speaks volumes of how much all of you support COL's mission – **to worship, learn, serve, and invite.**

Looking at our expenses for 2007, I was surprised that staff salaries and benefits only comprised 53.4% of the whole picture, which in comparison to most churches, both smaller and larger than COL, makes up anywhere from 65-75% of their overall budgets.

On the one hand, I so support the ministry of all baptized members, whereby the work of people like you is vital to the ministry of the congregation as well as in the communities in which you live and work. It wouldn't be possible to do all that we do without people like you who lead, teach, serve and invite others to experience what it's like to be a part of faith community like this one! On the other hand, given the size as well as the breadth and depth of what we offer, additional staffing in areas of growth may be a wise investment to continue providing opportunities for people to be involved and in order to grow spiritually.



After the salaries and benefits, benevolence comprises the next largest portion of the budget, which says much about who we are. In so many congregations, it is property. As a congregation whose members (mostly) don't have to worry about what to eat, where to sleep, or what to do if they need to see a doctor, it's important that COL never loses sight of the expectation that Jesus has for us to continually care for the poor and those who society ignores.

Because of that, COL has 11 servant partners with whom we are in direct, hands-on relationship. Here's what often happens when people get involved by traveling to and volunteering at one of our partners. More often than not they come back filled with excitement and energy, wanting to help the partner even more - this is

awesome and a gift! The thing is, they get so excited and see so many needs that they often come back hoping we can do special fund raisers or a collection of needed items for those ministries.

Rather than do that in an unstructured sort of way, here's how we handle it. At various times throughout the year, we lift up each of these partners (*through Partner of the Month*) so that you aren't overwhelmed every week trying to bring bags of food for the Food Pantry, toothpaste and eye drops for El Salvador, medications and pill bottles for Bread of Healing, and so on. We know once people get overwhelmed they might not bother to bring anything at all.

In addition, other than our youth, we don't usually plan partner-specific fundraisers such as one finds in the schools or other charities. To some extent, we don't need to either. The size of our benevolence budget allows for strong support of each partner. Looking at what we were able to share with those partners from our financial resources from 2007 affirms that. Yet, how can we continue to share of ourselves among our partners and within this faith family?

After the top five areas of the budget, the programs and ministries of COL operate on very little when looking at the whole picture. Please remember how much of the curriculum we use (whether for Christian Education, Confirmation, Sr. High Sunday Morning Conversations or Adult Education) is actually written by our staff, our adults who lead forums/small groups, and our high school youth. These are incredible blessings of how people share of themselves.

Last year I challenged all of you to increase the number of people you know at COL. How many people do you now know by face and name? Look around at the people you worship with and get to know their name and what they do. It's a small world in the Church and it's fascinating the connections we have with one another that we only discover when we get to know one another.

To help in making this happen, a new group has now emerged named the GO Group (*Group Opportunities*). Last year the council decided that the time had come to bring the Fellowship committee to a close, concluding that people were looking to be involved in more meaningful ways than serving on a committee perceived as "a cake cutting committee." Fear not, there will still be cake at all major COL celebrations, only now that will be handled by the respective committee involved in planning that day. This new group will be focused on planning opportunities that will bring people of all ages together around food and interactive activities (*similar to events we already have such as soup suppers followed by worship, church picnics, Advent Fest, etc.*) Watch for more this year.....

As COL continues to mature in its congregational life, we'll have to deal with the reality head on that it will be tempting to wander down the road of resisting change and becoming stuck in wanting to do things as we have always done them. However, change isn't always as bad as we assume it is. Often times, something new and surprising comes from being open to other ways.

Remembering who we are and what are mission is as we seek to have *Each One, Add One* this year will help us remain open to how God will be working through each of us as we worship, learn, serve and invite (*TOGETHER*) in his name!

*"So with yourselves; since you are eager for spiritual gifts, strive to excel in them for building up the church."  
I Corinthians 14:12*

~ Sherrie

***President's Reflections***  
**Kathy Kramer**

It seems only appropriate to begin the President's reflection by thanking Mark Krause for dedication and service to Cross of Life as the council president for the past two years. We're grateful for Mark's leadership and commitment to the life and mission of COL.

In November the staff and council met for a retreat to reflect on the past year and set goals for 2008. The goal identified for the upcoming year was inspired by our mission statement:

***Through the Holy Spirit, we are inspired by the Good News of Jesus Christ to love our neighbors as ourselves, reaching out to the world as we worship, learn, serve and invite in his name.***

We focused on the four verbs worship, learn, serve, and invite, and generated a goal that was also four words - Each one, add one. The intent of the goal is that each adult member considers how you might add one worship, learning, service and invitational experience in 2008. I'm reminded of the "ripple effect." Think of the impact our combined efforts could make throughout our community. If each of us participated in one more worship experience, attended one new learning opportunity, provided service to the community and invited another to worship one more time; imagine the possibilities of our collective efforts.

It's an exciting time at Cross of Life and I look forward to the ways in which we can all live out our "verbs" in his name.

## Statistical Information for 2007

### Baptisms

#### January

20 Devin Lee, Madison  
Candace, Connor James, Logan  
Shawn Pribyl

#### February

25 Reid Anderson Estacio

#### March

11 Cecilia Grace Ann Pirwitz  
25 Paige Ruth Pulczynski  
25 Owen Henry Zimmer

#### April

22 Selah Gabrielle Duessler

#### May

12 Spencer MacKay  
20 Madeline Lucille Paradis  
26 Gabriella Grace Kalpinski  
Heinemann

#### June

2 Gabriel Landon Miller  
3 Lola Michele Bond  
10 Hadley Kay Harmelink  
23 Jack Ingo Mahn  
24 Aiden Klick  
30 Jack Pennington Keddie

#### October

20 Lyla Mary Borchardt  
27 Aubrey Delores McDonell

#### November

16 Emma Claire Zenner

#### December

23 Adam Jacob Anderson

### First Communion Students May 19, & 20, 2007

Ashlyn Adams  
Madison Aprahamian  
Justin Blatnik  
Kaitlyn Brayer  
Jenna Brown  
Sarah Brown  
Annie Collins  
Garrett Czarnik  
Megan Dehn  
Margaret Hamm  
Everett Harmelink  
William Heal  
Charlie Ho  
Kendall Holloway  
Jason Hugo  
Courtney Johnson  
Rachel Johnson  
Allison Jones  
Caitlin Kelley  
Thomas Kindler  
Kate Kuchar  
Emma Larson  
Hannah Lein  
Spencer MacKay  
Ashleigh Manby  
Anna Meyers  
Amanda Pape  
Greta Patt  
Trevor Perry  
Korinne Pfeifer  
Devin Pribyl  
Madison Pribyl  
Samantha Ranney  
Henry Ritchie  
Kasia Schwantes  
Philip Shady  
Collin Shannon  
Amber Soik  
Mackenzie Swart  
John Turco  
Matthew Wilkins  
Alex Wistrom  
Owen Wozniak

### Confirmation Students September 15 & 16, 2007

Marcus Aprahamian  
Brad Bartel  
Kali Bruhnke  
Kevin Bryden  
Carly Cech  
Kieran Dolan  
Kyle Driscoll  
Madelyn Flynn  
Joe Gobis,  
Nick Grassel  
Sarah Harris  
Kate Hartzler  
Caroline Henricks  
T. Ryan Hicks  
Erich Kaisler  
Kristine Kammers  
Kaitlin Kapitan  
Lauren Kossoris  
Nicole Krause  
Brett Lackey  
Rachel Larsen  
Maddy LeClaire  
Courtney Leeds  
Justin Leeper  
Trevor Leeper  
Erika Lowerr  
Hannah Maas  
Jack Miller  
Jack Peterson  
Jack Porritt  
Kelly Rasmussen  
Jacob Riederer  
Lauren Schlapman  
Kevin Schmidt  
Ben Secora  
Katie Shannon  
Anne Sorenson  
Vanessa Vaughan

# Members Received

## Spring 2007

Sheri & Todd Adams (Ashlyn, Maddie, TJ)  
 Tom & Sue Held (Amanda, Peter)  
 Melissa & Jeff Kading (Megan, Emily)  
 Jim & Bonnie La Tourette  
 Rob Lerner & Kristin Prom  
 Kristen & Kevin MacKay (Laini, Eleri, Spencer)  
 Ardyce & James Myhre  
 Kristin Noack (Andrew, Matthew)  
 Barbara & John Purnell  
 Dale & Robin Whitehead, (Carla, Samuel)

## Fall 2007

Chris & Heather Butkiewicz (Tristan, Kalista)  
 Ben Davis  
 Eric & Kelley Gravenkamp (Jacob, Spencer)  
 Brian & Lisa Klick (Aiden)  
 Wade & Renee Krogwald (Ben, Maddie)  
 Joel & Jennifer Nellis  
 Jeff & Marilyn Ranney (Samantha, Nicole)  
 James Schumacher & Melissa Macco  
 Ross & Tammy Zarling (Katie, Andrew)  
 Erin Zimmer (Owen)

## Released from active membership

### Transfer Requested to other ELCA Church

Kirsten Swenson, Wade Loofboro, Clay Loofboro, & Katherine Loofboro  
 Frank & Patti Cimermanic & Catherine  
 Dave & Kathy Williams  
 Curt and Carin Larson  
 Judy Kolstad

### Transferred to Other Churches or Released

Mark & Lorrie, Shelly, Katherine, Therese, Becca Wenzel  
 Cheryl & David, Michael Mort  
 Karen, Simon, Payton Keddie  
 Mark Borchardt  
 Leah & Tom, Jordan, Justin, Trevor Leeper  
 Jim & Michele, Megan, Joe, Elizabeth Olshanski

### Membership Removed by Death

John Hallberg ~ 05/02/07  
 Virginia Whitlock ~ 10/21/07

### Compare our 2006 & 2007 Attendance Numbers

	2006	2007
Average Attendance Per Week	583	571
Average Weekend Attendance	526	498
Worship Services Together	174	163
Membership Baptized	1736	1781
Confirmed	1262	1311

*Three Funerals of friends & relatives  
of the Cross of Life Family.*

*William Bagguley*

*Loren Lamp*

*Keith Gores*

~ ~ ~

*Seven Celebrations of Christian Marriage*

*Julie Kopus & Geoff Sheldon*

*Bethany Harnden & Bob Schmelzer*

*Meghan Nielon & Ryan Danials*

*Shelley Miller & Rob Nolden*

*Chris Lentzke & Sarah Blattler*

*Traci Swartz & Nick Diciaula*

*Julie Cengeri & Tom Hochuli*

## *Reflections of Cross of Life Committee Chairs*

### **Christian Education ~ Nicki Shady**

As the new year begins and I reflect back on the events of the second half of 2007, I can't help but smile. We wrapped up our Sunday School program last spring with a very special project. The rainbow of handprints created by the kids at COL (under the guidance of our gifted resident artist, Joan Krause) can be seen on the wall first floor of the Education Wing. It seems not a week goes by without seeing a child compare their actual hand to their print on the wall and pointing out to their parents (again!) which print is theirs and how they've grown. We are also thankful to another gifted artist, Reverend Richard Patt (grandpa to a Sunday School family) for painting our gathering tree in the Fellowship Hall North classroom. We hope to continue embellishing the halls of the education wing with additional art work/paintings in the upper level. Through generous gifts by our members to our education program we are able to continue to create a warm and inviting surrounding for our children.

Several changes were made to our Christian Education Program this year, including the implementation of a new curriculum and the expansion of our Saturday Sunday School classes. What a wonderful problem to have..., the need to recruit additional teachers to accommodate growing Sunday School enrollment! This year in Sunday School our children are learning "we are light, we are salt" which helps them understand the importance of God's presence in their lives. We are also continuing to expand our servanthood opportunities in an attempt to allow our children to further touch the community with their faith. In addition to helping support the Waukesha Food Pantry, the Heifer Project and the Care and Share program, this year we built a mountain of cereal (several actually) for the Waukesha Food Pantry, planted flowers for the Springdale House and made fleece blankets for First Choice for Children. Through these programs/projects we continue to teach our children, "It's a blessing to be a blessing!"

Of course it is through the commitment of the dedicated members of the Sunday School staff and the Education Committee that keeps our program so strong. As always, anyone interested in joining either group should contact Jo Ann Tomm or myself.

*"He who teaches children learns more than they do."*

-German Proverb

## *Reflections of Cross of Life Committee Chairs*

### **Adult Programs ~ Irene Secora**

This year we have continued to focus on our goal of bringing more Adult Programs to Cross of Life members. We continued to offer our Sunday morning Adult Forums and Bible Studies. The Adult Programs Committee made a conscientious effort to schedule a greater variety of topics for the Adult Forums to peak the interest of more members. An "older" (K-3rd grade) kid's childcare was added, in hopes that it would provide another opportunity for parents to attend an Adult Forum or Bible Study on Sunday morning.

In keeping with the goals that were established from the 2006 Great Expectations gathering, we wanted to continue expanding Bible Study offerings. Pastor Jon continued leading the 24-week New Testament In-Depth Bible Study that began in October 2006 with approximately 17 people attending each week. Then in September, we had a number of offerings including an 8-week Gospel of Mark Study led by Susie Hilgart, a 24-week Old Testament Study led by Pastor John and a 24-week New Testament Study led by Pastor Sherrie. All of these studies will continue in 2008.

We also hosted 2 Sunday night series events in 2007. The first series titled "Confirmation 101" was held 2 Sunday evenings in March. Then when members settled in after summer, we continued with a "Bible Basics" series on 3 Sunday evenings in October. Both series were very well attended.

Something new for Cross of Life during the week prior to Easter was our Labyrinth experience. It tied into our Lenten theme of "Journey In/Journey Out: Guided by Jesus" and was so successful that we are bringing it back again in March 2008.

Small Groups also continued to strive. The 16 Small Groups add another layer for adults to be further involved and fill the needs of the congregation: Care for Creation, Couple's Fellowship, Couple's Study Group, Dine with Nine, Gardening Group, Invespers, Medical Small Group, Mom's GIFT (Growing in Faith Together), OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans), Quilting Group, Sew Comfy, Young Couple's Group, Saturday Morning Men's Breakfast Group, Men's Sunday Morning Group, Thursday Evening Women's Bible Study, Tuesday Morning Men's Breakfast Group and Men's Thursday Night Men's Book Club. For more information on these groups, check the COL website or the Narthex Information Center.

We had a great year for Adult Programs and I want to extend a huge thank you to the awesome committee for 2007: Kathy Bruhnke, Julie Grassel, Julie Hochuli, Greg Hoesly, Janice Johnson, Mark Krause, Jon Mueller, Carol Perry and Lisa Toy.

As a new mission statement was adopted last year; "to worship, learn, serve and invite", and a new goal of Each One Add One in 2008, I invite each one of you to make it your personal mission to find a small group, attend a Sunday morning Adult Forum or Bible Study or if you already attend, invite a friend to attend with you. If you are looking to deepen spiritually or to connect with other members of Cross of Life, there is an Adult Program for everyone.

# *Reflections of Cross of Life Committee Chairs*

## **New Members ~ Laura Weber**

Worship, Learn, Serve and Invite. The new member committee focuses our attention on the last of our four key words—Invite! We rely on the congregation to invite friends and family to experience everything Cross of Life has to offer.

For those wishing to join or learn more about the church we start the process with our three new member inquiry classes. During these classes potential new members meet the staff, council members and others who are worshipping with them to start building their friendships.

In 2007 we welcomed 20 new families into Cross of Life. Prior to the new member classes personal phone calls were made to all who indicated their interest in membership. The meetings were held in March and October with those wishing to join being received into membership at the new member weekends. Flowers were given to new members to help existing members welcome them into our faith family. New member weekend was wrapped up with a potluck reception, which included new member families, families from the congregation, staff and council members.

As we look ahead to 2008, we plan to continue personally contacting families who express an interest in joining, set-up bi-annual orientations and follow up with new members. This year we plan on inviting the entire congregation to the new member potluck receptions to give those that just joined an opportunity to meet more of the congregation.

I'd like to thank all those of you that have helped welcome our new members over the last year.



## **Stewardship ~ Paul Patt**

Cross of Life is a vibrant, growing church, and along with that comes growing financial obligations. In 2007, Cross of Life members gave generously and we were able to meet our financial objectives for the year. For that, we are thankful!

We decided to use a more interactive approach for the 2008 stewardship appeal, using the theme of 'Pony Express'. We felt that the Pony Express model enabled members to interact with other members throughout the stewardship process. Most of the feedback we have received has been positive, and members seemed to have fun with the process. What a terrific way for our membership to get to know each other better and to be an active part of the stewardship process!

We continue to encourage automatic withdrawal as an option for giving in 2008. This option is convenient for many, and enables members to keep up with their giving even if they don't attend church on a particular weekend. Our goal is to provide options that fit the needs of our membership.

At the time of this report, we continue to receive estimates of giving for 2008. To date, those who submitted an estimate of giving for '08 and also in '07 are planning to respond to our appeal by giving approximately the same amount they gave in 2007. We are encouraged by the number of families who submitted an estimate of giving for 2008 but didn't in 2007. We appreciate everyone's involvement in the financial stability of our church, and it will be important for members to live up to their estimates of giving in 2008 in order to support our church budget. We are confident that our membership will respond to the challenge!

In closing, **thank you** for your continued financial support and contributions of time. Everyday I am thankful to be part of such a generous and caring congregation. I'm also thankful for the Stewardship Committee who worked especially hard on this year's campaign!

*Reflections of Cross of Life Committee Chairs*

**Finance ~ Craig Nelson**

The Finance Committee works closely with the Treasurer to plan, monitor and account for the financial affairs of the church. This includes helping to draft the annual budget, counting and depositing the offerings each week, conducting audits of the prior years' record keeping, and advising the council on financial matters.

For details of the finances of the congregation for the year 2007, please see the report prepared by the Treasurer, Paul Knowles.

The financial committee's audit of the fiscal 2006 records disclosed excellent record keeping, and everything in order. Thanks to Holly Sorenson (bookkeeper) Jon Sorenson (financial secretary) and Kirk Hegna (treasurer during 2006 and most of 2007) for their work relating to the financial health of the church.

When it comes to congregational involvement, the most visible task for the Finance Committee is counting the weekly offering. Thanks to everyone who volunteers to help with the counting. If anyone else would like to help out by counting please let me know. We are always interested in having new counters, and the involvement is not really too time consuming. The process is fairly easy, and we always try to have three counters each week, so newer counters always have someone available if there are questions or problems. Generally, each person counts about once every 2 or 3 months, and it takes about 1-2 hours after the second service.

The finance committee welcomes new members, and, again, this is not a particularly time consuming involvement. We meet for about an hour every two months, usually between services. We discuss the finances of the church, and try to identify and address any developing problems. If you have an interest, please let me know, as you would be most welcome. No particular training or professional experience is required, just an interest in the financial affairs of the church. Also, any member of the congregation is welcome to attend our committee meetings, even if you don't want to be on the committee. If you let me know, I will make sure you are advised of our next meeting.

**If you have any questions about the finances of the church, or if you would like to be involved in the Finance Committee, please let us know.**



**Property ~ Glenn Turco**

Thanks to the forethought and leadership of out-going property chair, Bob Baudo, updates, maintenance, and improvements continued throughout 2007. In addition, many potential areas were identified as eventually needing to be maintained, and plans were initiated. These projects include exterior painting and exterior storm window replacement. Also, phase two of the narthex project will continue in 2008.

It is the hope of this church council to integrate and connect with other groups and committees at Cross of Life. The property of COL is an ideal place for service. I invite you, your small group, new members, or any committee or youth group to "worship, learn, serve and invite" at any time.

Looking at the Cross of Life budget it is clear that benevolence giving is a priority for this congregation. Any servant work done at COL translates into more money being kept in the Servant budget. Your actions and your inaction have a long- reaching effect of which you may not be aware.

The property committee "sponsors" several servant opportunities throughout the year. Spring and Fall clean-up, summertime weeding, gardening, and mowing as well as winter snow removal are a few of the more direct ways you can serve at COL. Indirectly, you are serving the recipients of our donations. By not having to hire out these services, we are able to give thousands more toward these causes. This, to me, is a worthwhile use of our time.

Thanks for helping to maintain your church's property. Never hesitate to contact me with questions or comments. It is all very much appreciated.

## *Reflections of Cross of Life Committee Chairs*

### **Servant Ministries ~ Sheila Schrieber**

The Servant Ministries Committee has been busy again this year. We continue to work with our many partners and we strive to inform and educate the congregation about our partners and our partnerships. The Servant Ministries bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall has been set up to include information about each of our partners and maps showing where they are located. The Servant Ministries brochure was produced for the first time during 2007. It includes information and pictures describing each partner and many of the Servanthood opportunities available. The Partner of the Month program was continued.

Servant Ministries is grateful for the continuing generosity of the congregation. For 2007, Servant Ministries received 18% of Total Giving as well as 50% of COL's 2007 Excess Revenues. We donated 7% of Giving to the Synod and 12% to support our many partners. Our support includes the following highlights:

**Agape** – Monthly meals continue to be served. Also, COL donated 20 homemade Christmas stockings and 25 children's Christmas gifts to the Agape Community Center.

**Bread of Healing Medical Center (BOH)** – A donation covering the total cost of their Lutheran Volunteer Corps volunteer was given. Many of our members continue to volunteer at the clinic. In July, the BOH Clinic at Agape opened one night a week. It has been staffed by many COL doctors who volunteer their time and by Donna Nesler. This clinic hopes to expand in the future. In October, we sponsored a fun and informative 'guided tour' of BOH at Cross and at Agape for members of COL. We are very excited to have a BOH storage closet at COL as of the end of 2007. This gives our members a better opportunity to help sort meds at church.

**El Salvador** – Continues to be an important partner. COL members travel there each February and August. This year we made a substantial contribution towards the purchase of a church building in Soyapango. Much needed dental equipment was also purchased. We continue to provide scholarships.

**Florist Avenue** – We continue to participate in the summer lunch program. We also continue to help support the church financially and provide their Parish Nurse, Donna Nesler.

**Genesis House** – A storage shed was purchased.

**Habitat for Humanity** – Continues to receive a financial contribution from COL and we have a few COL workers that work on the Waukesha County homes.

**Luther Manor** – A substantial year-end gift was given to support their on-going adult art program.

**New Orleans** – A group of members once again joined other Waukesha churches on a service trip, which included work at Bethlehem Lutheran. A 2008 trip is currently being considered.

**Springdale House** – A donation was made towards the purchase of new kitchen appliances. Additionally, Christmas gifts were purchased for each client and caregiver. A spring work day was held to clean up the yard.

**Waukesha Food Pantry** – We were once again able to purchase and deliver turkeys for volunteers, including COL confirmation students, volunteer at the pantry. Our Sunday School students led a successful month long cereal drive this fall. Additionally, in 2007, we were able to make significant contributions to Lutherdale Camping and Lutheran World Hunger.

There was a big snowstorm on Servanthood Sunday 2007. Our work that day was limited to Springdale and COL.

Each COL partner is represented by an advocate on the Servant Ministries Committee. The committee strives to maintain a meaningful relationship with each partner and to meet to carefully consider and discuss each partner and their needs. Please feel free to contact any of these dedicated committee members with your questions or concerns: Jill Barney, Jim Baumgartner, Greg Bonk, Jeannie Bonk, Kathy Conrad, Jensy Engle, Brian Flynn, Mark Hilgart, Wendy Kogler, Donna Nesler, Brian Weber and Susan Wick. Servant Ministries is grateful for the leadership of both Susie Hilgart and Pastor Sherrie. Thanks again for your continuing support. We hope to see everyone involved in the Servant Ministries in 2008.



**Worship and Music ~ Marv Wunder**

I feel very blessed to be the chair person of a committee where the members provide such an abundance of creativity and caring that enables our church to offer a positive worship experience to anyone who attends a service, whether that person be a visitor or longtime member.

This would not be possible without the many volunteers needed for each service, over 20 on an average. Thank you to all who give of their time and talent working with our church staff to put forth a well rounded worship service.

Cross of Life has a very talented, professional and creative music staff consisting of Chris Standley, Director of Music Ministries, Becky Wickert, Director of Adult Choirs, and Lynn Key, Organist. They, along with people of all age groups who share their musical talents enable all of us to praise God in music and song.

The implementation of the new red hymnal in our worship has been very well received and has eliminated the confusion as to what color book a given hymn number would be found. This new Lutheran Book of Worship contains many of the old favorites as well as some new songs and varied liturgical settings, which help us to expand our knowledge and understanding of our Lutheran heritage.

As this committee's chairperson, I want to thank our church staff and fellow committee members for your sustaining humor and exceptional ideas. Your help and input is much appreciated.

Feedback is always welcome and encouraged from all congregation members. Feel free to approach any members of our staff or this committee. Your input helps to create and nurture a positive and meaningful worship time at Cross of Life.

## *Reflections of Cross of Life Committee Chairs*

### **Youth ~ Mike Gutzeit**

A year of transitions and opportunities

#### People

- Carole Syse stepped down as Youth Director (YD) after 7 years of dedicated leadership. Good luck Carole in the next phase of your career journey. Go with faith as always!!
- Molly Miller named as Interim Youth Director (YD) in August
- Expanded Youth Committee membership
- Youth Board at 45 members!!!! A record!
- Youth Board meeting support from many adult leaders
- Rob Perry serving as Youth Board Council rep
- Mike Gutzeit serving as Council rep from Youth Committee

#### Places

- Ski Trip in February
- Boundary Waters summer trip
- Youth board retreat at Lutherdale in October

#### Happenings

- Sunday AM conversations growing in attendance with excellent youth leadership and one segment featuring a “20-something” couple as adult leaders
- Format of Youth Board changed to reflect the COL Mission Statement with 5 groups: Worship, Learn, Serve, Invite and Confirmation – These new teams have led to some newer, more meaningful Sunday night events.
- Youth Leadership Development group formed to develop vision and planning for growth and expansion of Youth/Young Adult programs
- Molly Miller asked/accepted to continue to lead as Youth Director through mid 2009 as further plans evolve for the YD position
- Congregation servant events:
  - May Carnival
  - Christmas babysitting
  - Serving for social event after Sunday evening Sunday school Christmas pageant
- COL Partner Servant events:
  - Sorting clothing for First Choice for Children
  - Sorting medications for Bread of Healing

#### Summary:

The year 2007 was definitely one of growth and opportunities for the Youth Committee. Overall it was another outstanding year. A record number of Youth Board members led to a vibrancy that many voices and youthful energy brings. The engaged presence of the adult and youth leaders allowed continued development of the Youth Board meetings and the Sunday AM conversation events. The Youth Committee expanded its membership and a Youth Leadership development group formed to explore the potential growth areas such as the post-college and “20-something” members of the congregation. Molly Miller was named Youth Director in August and her faith, energy, experience and dedication have been well received by youth and adults. She is providing the excellent leadership which will allow continued program development. The summer of 2008 will find the COL Senior High youth taking a service trip to New York City. This opportunity was embraced with enthusiasm as the openings for the trip were quickly filled. Start spreading the news

## **✝ Parish Nurse News**

### **Florist Avenue Lutheran Church ~ Donna Nesler**

This year has been an exciting one for me. In April, I began an exercise class for the neighborhood at The Agape Community Center. We meet once per week- Thursday's at 2:30. Class size varies from 6- 12 and as any one who has taken an exercise class before knows- that is a good number of folks. These are people from the neighborhood who value exercise and have decided to make the effort to change their lifestyle- to live healthier. Agape has received some grant money and we are hoping to be able to buy a stationary bike for the people who have difficulty walking due to arthritis. I would like to add another day because I know people don't always exercise on their own at home- many need a group to motivate them.

In June, Cross of Life Lutheran Church, Florist Avenue Lutheran Church, The Agape Community Center and the Bread of Healing Free Clinic opened a free clinic at The Agape Community Center. The clinic is opened Wednesday evenings from 6 pm to 8:30 pm and we offer free health care to the uninsured. Many clients are working but can't afford insurance and are not offered it through their jobs. Some are unable to get disability because they make too much money- (the income level to qualify for medical assistance through the state is \$962/month – more than that and you don't qualify). We have 5 physicians who volunteer their time – one Wednesday per month to see our clients. There are 4 nurses and numerous volunteers who help the clinic operate. The clinic is fortunate to be partnered with Dynacare Laboratories who donate all labs. In the six months since the clinic opened we have seen approximately 60 patients- and filled hundreds of prescriptions- mostly for hypertension, diabetes and arthritis. We have logged over 100 volunteer hours in the first 6 months. As I look to the future for the clinic I would like to increase the hours the clinic is opened to accommodate more clients.

At Florist Avenue Lutheran Church I have continued office hours on Thursdays during the Food Pantry so as to offer blood pressures or health education when needed. I contribute a short article for the weekly bulletin- keeping the congregation informed on topics that are timely or of high interest.

When I began the Parish Nurse job at Florist Avenue Lutheran Church I had no idea that it would become such a huge part of my life or that I would get to know so many people who would have such a profound impact on me. It has truly been a blessing for me to be able to continue my health ministry over the last year.

*Reflections  
of the  
COL Staff*

**Director of Servant Ministries ~ Susie Hilgart**

**Worship ~ Learn ~ Serve ~ Invite**

COL was blessed in many ways in the past year and you'll read of them throughout this report. One significant blessing for the Servant Ministries committee was the deepening of our relationships with our

servant partners. 2007 provided us the time and volunteers to better immerse ourselves into the communities of our partners.

Another significant blessing was strong member giving. Thank You! This allowed the Servant Ministries Committee, comprised of "advocates", one for each of our Servant partners, to respond, financially, to the challenges facing our partners both locally and internationally.

We thought it might be interesting for you to see:

*A Year in Review ~ Servant Ministries 2007*

**Events:**

- Servanthood Work Day (Springdale House and COL) Snow Storm!!!! 130 volunteers- 324 hours - 32 doz. cookies
- **Quarterly Blood Drives**
- **"Guided Tour"** COL members took a bus tour to Bread of Healing and Bread of Healing at Agape to help people get to these partner sites and learn more about their ministry.
- **Sunday School has connected with Servant Ministry** this year to help our young people to develop a servant heart. Our partners and/or our partner advocates spend time with our 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders to share their ministries.
- Servant Ministries ran a DVD interlude during the Annual Meeting to lift up the partners and the work we are a part of.
- We continued **Partner of the Month** highlighting a partner to help educate the congregation and allow them to learn about ways could be involved.

**Agape:**

- Provided Lasagna meals monthly
- Bread of Healing at Agape Clinic opened in July
- COL members purchased Agape Christmas CD's totaling \$420
- COL members purchased 25 Christmas gifts for the Agape Community Center neighborhood children

**Bread of Healing:**

- PS<sup>3</sup> Closet at COL (a Pill Sorting & Storage Closet in the lower level of the Sunday School wing)
- Weekly volunteers (sorting medications, helping at the clinic)
- Open a clinic in the Agape Community center (COL medical members volunteer one night a week as doctors, nurses and support staff)

**El Salvador:**

- 2 trips per year (one trip provides dental and eye clinics)
- Provided scholarships for students from Cordero de Dios, Soyapango (our sister church) and Rutilio Grande (our synod partner)
- Provided needed supplies to the elementary school in Rutilio
- Purchased computers for Cordero de Dios
- Purchased portable dental equipment for our February Mission of Healing trips (½ of Lenten offering)
- Purchased and received eye glasses/readers
- Contributed to the Pastor's Endowment Fund

**Florist Avenue:**

- Provided carrots, potatoes and pancake mix for Christmas baskets
- Provide quarterly payments of financial support
- Funded the Parish Nurse Salary
- Provided 70 back packs and supplies for Back to School
- Provided volunteers for the after school tutoring program
- Purchased and prepared the food for the Summer Lunch program (two weeks in July)
- Collected clothing for Back to School rummage

**Genesis House:**

- Purchased a storage shed

**Luther Manor:**

- COL began new Confirmation Servant Opportunity
- Yearly monetary donation to Auxiliary Group
- Annual Cookie Drive on Servanthood Sunday

**Lutheran World Hunger:**

- COL donated \$620 for Lutheran World Hunger at Christmas

**New Orleans Trip:**

- ½ of Lenten offering donated to restore efforts
- Two trips in 2007 (Youth and Adult)

**Springdale House:**

- Participated in a March yard workday
- Purchased a used riding lawnmower
- Continued funding needed snowplowing
- Purchased Christmas gifts for the four residents
- Purchased seven gift cards for the caregivers at Christmas

**Waukesha Food Pantry:**

- Thanksgiving offering funded 236 Turkeys
- During Thanksgiving/Christmas collected 186 Basic Bags
- Purchased 188 hams for Christmas
- COL supplies volunteers weekly and monthly

**Lutheran Higher Education:**

- COL contributes to students attending ELCA colleges and seminary

**A special thank you to committee chair Sheila Schrieber and the Servant Ministries Committee for their continued work with our partners.**

*Reflections  
of the  
COL Staff*

**Director of Christian Education ~ Jo Ann Tomm**

This report for the Education Ministry falls midway in our program year. There is always a nice rhythm to the cycle of the school year. In addition to the events that happen year after year, new opportunities seem to find their way into the program. Here are my reflections on the past year.

**Team effort.** There is a committed group of fourteen who work together to keep the education ministry ticking. Our reigning chair, Kathy Kramer has moved on to hold the office of Congregation president and stepping into her place for 2008 is Nicki Shady. Nicki has been a member of the Ed Committee for several years and now brings her gifts to this role. The committee meets regularly to plan and organize upcoming program pieces and events. The Education Committee also does the long range planning and decision making of the program. A big part of this ministry includes the seventy-three individuals who make up the Sunday School staff. Both the Education Committee and the Sunday School teachers are amazing and Spirit-filled groups... all working together!

**Some numbers.** As we wrapped up 2007, the two hour Saturday evening program (Preschool – Grade 6) had an enrollment of 93 students, 8:30 (Preschool- Grade 3) had 68 students, 9:45 (Grades 4-5-6) had 64, Confirmation (Grades 7-8) had 57 students and the 11:00 hour (Preschool-Grade 3) had 31 students giving us a total of 313 enrolled in Preschool through Grade 8. New faces show up regularly, many are school friends of current Sunday School students. What exciting witnesses our children are out in the community!

**Some Updates:** This year our previous Sunday School series was discontinued and the Education Committee was charged with finding a replacement. We remained committed to using a series connected to the lectionary and this year we began using a series called, *Living the Good News*. We realized no series will be a perfect fit, as a whole we are satisfied with our choice.

2007 marked the fourth year we stepped out of our regular Sunday School program and took our students on a **ROAD Trip**. (*Rotating Opportunities As Disciples*). The lessons for these experiences in rotation model Sunday School were written by a team of writers from the Education Committee in 2003 and edited for the current year. It is wonderful to have a complete three-year rotation of themes and lessons for two different age groups: lower elementary (Grades 1-2-3) and upper elementary (Grades 4-5-6).

In addition to our weekly program we again organized fellowship opportunities; family bowling and rock climbing. It was a record-breaking year for the very popular Grades 3-4 and 5-6 winter lock-in's. We continue to offer a Lent learning opportunity for young learners called Lent School during the Wednesday Lenten worship services. A spring First Communion class was offered to third graders. VBS went out West to Avalanche Ranch in June (with phenomenal support from junior and senior high students returning as crew leaders on staff. *Wahoo!*). In July, 55 kids headed off to our week at Lutherdale Bible Camp. The Year Two confirmation students traveled on their summer camping trip up the East Coast of Wisconsin. Outdoor camping ministry is a beloved part of our program.

You can see in all this activity there are many hands working together to bring this ministry to our young people and the spirit of volunteerism is amazing. I look forward to the adventures 2008 will bring as we live out Cross of Life's mission to worship, serve, learn and invite.

Respectfully submitted by Jo Ann Tomm

***Reflections  
of the  
COL Staff***

**Director of Adult Programs ~ Susie Hilgart**

**Worship ~ Learn ~ Serve ~ Invite**

During 2007, adults at COL were on the road of “continuing education”...enhancing their understanding and appreciation of the Bible. The Adult Programs Committee focused on providing more adult learning opportunities. The New Testament In-Depth class was a hit and many of you asked for other studies like it. Others of you asked for mini confirmation classes with the same curriculum that our students receive. The committee so appreciated your input as those requests laid a good foundation with which to work from.

Throughout the year new educational opportunities were created for both day and evening time slots. Two more in-depth Bible studies were offered, along with mini confirmation and Bible basics classes on Sunday evenings. We began a monthly class to help families care for older adults called “A Year in the Life” (thank you to Jen Nowak and Laura Strehlow for facilitating). And our 9:45 Sunday morning Adult Education hour continued with a pastor led Bible study and a topical adult forums.

Adult Programs expanded childcare availability in 2007. COL member, Carla Whitehead, provides childcare for our K-3<sup>rd</sup> graders in the lower level of the Sunday School wing at 9:45 on Sunday mornings. With Gail Anklam in the nursery, caring for our infants through PreSchool II children, our goal is to make it convenient for parents to be able to grab a cup of coffee and attend the “continuing educational” opportunities.

Our Small Group ministry continued to grow adding two new groups: Care for Creation and the Young Couples Group. All of the groups met regularly and made time to go out into the community and serve; through sewing, preparing meals, working at the Food Pantry, working on projects for our servant partners or collecting needed items.

Not all of our learning came from classes. During Lent, COL members had the chance to “Journey in and Journey out” of a labyrinth. A unique spiritual tool used by many at times of celebration, like Easter, when we journey to the cross.

As we journey into 2008 make the commitment to enhance your understanding of God’s work. Connect with a small group, attend a class or take part in a special educational offering.

***A special thank you to committee chair Irene Secora and the Adult Education Committee for their continued work and support.***

**Director of Music Ministry ~ Christine Standley**  
**Director of Adult Choirs: Rebekah Wickert**  
**Organist/Accompanist: Lynn Key**  
**Handbell Choir Administrator: Darlene Kaminski**

*Reflections  
of the  
COL Staff*

Music is an important part of our worship at Cross of Life, and it takes many people to make our music program what it is. Becky, Lynn, Darlene and I would like to thank everyone, from our youngest singers to our many adults, who have shared their musical gifts throughout this past year. Participation in a choir, a small ensemble or doing a solo takes commitment of both time and talent. Thank you to all of you who have chosen to make that commitment. And, may the music we prepare continue to be a blessing to you and to our congregation.

Cross of Life has continued to participate in sharing music with our partner congregations. This year, we took several musical offerings to Florist Avenue Lutheran Church: our jazz combo in January, our Senior Choir in April, and a handbell group in November. It is a pleasure and a privilege to participate in worship with our partners at Florist Avenue, and we look forward to more opportunities to worship together this coming year.

Thank you, also to our Worship and Music Committee, under the leadership of Marv Wunder. Your time and energy in helping with many of our special services is very much appreciated. If you have an interest in worship planning, and would like to be part of this team, please feel free to join us at our next meeting. We are always looking for new members and fresh ideas.

Finally, a personal “thank you” to all my colleagues, particularly Lynn Key, who stepped in and took on a lot of extra work during my bout with thyroid cancer last spring. I couldn’t ask for a better group of people to work with! And, thanks to all the members of Cross of Life for your thoughts and prayers during that time. This is a wonderful congregation to be a part of!

And, now, on to 2008! I am looking forward to a wonderful year!

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Standley

**Reflections  
of the  
COL Staff**

**Molly Miller – Director of Youth Ministries**

**The Great Commission – Matthew 28:18-20 as written in  
The Message, The Bible in Contemporary Language**

*~Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge:  
“God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out  
and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the  
threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have  
commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the  
age.”*

Having worked very closely in this ministry for the last 8 years as a volunteer and currently as a staff member, I can’t help but see a comparison of the hard work being done in this program to Jesus being “undeterred” in going ahead and giving his charge! I love that all of us are called to tend to this Great Commission in a way that is “undeterred” or unwavering. Here at Cross of Life, there is a large group of youth and adults who are undeterred in taking on this command through the minds and hearts of our youth, knowing that the Holy Spirit is with us “day after day, after day” as we forge on.

The adults and youth that make up the COL Youth Board are charged with bringing faith in fellowship to all the other Sr. High Youth. Knowing that faith is built by being in community with each other and for each other, they work hard to plan inclusive events that offer a variety of activities for everyone every week. Events such as the Worship Team’s interactive drum circle performance, or Team Learn’s, “How to deal with daily stress” event, as well as Team Serve setting up an evening of pill and clothing sorting for two of our COL partners.

Examples of Team Invite’s events include going to the IMAX or making personal invitations to all the Sr. High Youth for different events. And finally for example, Team Confirmation’s dedication to playing a game with the confirmation kids after each monthly dinner. These are just a few of the many events offered to the Sr. High at COL.

The adults and youth volunteers who plan and lead Sunday Morning Conversations understand their charge in bringing meaningful, faithful conversation to teenagers, all the while engaging in sincere and mutual respect.

The adults and youth who plan our confirmation fellowship events, (like our monthly confirmation dinners and midnight bowling, etc..) share in the charge of leading in a way that shows how important fellowship is within a community of faith, eventually bringing these 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders to the Sr. High program.

The adult leaders, who volunteer their lives and time to travel on various trips with the Sr. High, are also answering the charge of this commission. By putting these servant, adventure, and gathering trips on the top of their priority lists, they model to our youth the importance of developing a family of faith with the goal of serving others.

The Youth who answer the “call” to formally train as leaders among their peers, see with wonderfully open hearts and minds the importance of the charge set out before them as they study at leadership camps like Lutherdale’s PRISM, for the benefit of all the Sr. High at COL. All of these areas are strong and healthy not only because of the people working in them, but also because of the tireless belief of the Youth Committee whose charge it is to provide the meaning behind them, and evaluate the program’s effectiveness.

This committee is motivated to lead our congregation towards more meaningful events for our young adults as well. Ideas for young adult trips and bible studies continue to surface and to be

looked at more closely as we try to answer questions like, What does this age group want from this faith community during this time in their lives? Already in Jan. 2008, several COL young adults traveled as a group with other churches on a Servant Trip to New Orleans.

Having shared the above examples, it seems to ring true that very few things in life are worth the time and energy it takes to be devoted to something in a way that is untiring, undeterred and unceasing. One of our annual goals is to help more of our adults/parents see the great value in this youth program. To become convinced that planting the seeds of a faith community provides wonderful fruit for their children to take comfort in and purpose from for a lifetime.

It is so difficult to prioritize the small amount of time we have for each day when so much of our time is taken with finishing up short-term goals. I am so blessed and grateful to be working within a faith community like Cross of Life. To take on together the charge we have all been given. Prioritizing the long-term goals of our lives. The goals that bring about great faith for the journey we all take every day. The goals outlined in the Great Commission of Jesus and also in our COL Mission Statement:

***Through the Holy Spirit, we are inspired by the Good News of Jesus Christ to love our neighbors as ourselves reaching out to the world as we worship, learn, serve and invite in his name.***

Won't you join us in working undeterred at this Great Commission and COL mission too?

Respectfully Submitted,  
Molly Miller

# Cross of Life Lutheran Church 2008 Proposed Budget

	<u>2008 Budget</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>	<u>2007 Budget</u>	<u>2006 Actual</u>
<b><u>Revenues</u></b>				
Recorded Offerings	\$ 793,000	\$ 793,057	\$ 781,000	\$ 741,198
Loose Receipts	21,600	21,622	17,000	15,893
Interest Income	2,500	2,569	2,500	1,840
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 817,100</b>	<b>\$ 817,248</b>	<b>\$ 800,500</b>	<b>\$ 758,931</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>				
Benevolence	146,628	154,806	143,640	143,847
Salaries	336,353	314,543	322,223	286,950
Benefits	125,000	128,770	125,699	92,445
Property	44,150	43,850	43,110	41,399
Office Administration	32,886	39,576	36,420	34,418
Debt Service	76,608	76,608	76,608	76,608
<b><u>Committee Expenses</u></b>				
Education Committee	15,285	11,679	13,235	10,250
Adult Programs	8,275	6,969	6,525	8,351
New Members	1,000	621	500	423
Fellowship Committee	2,225	1,826	2,425	1,296
Finance Committee	-	0	0	0
Servant Ministry Committee	-	0	0	0
Stewardship Committee	1,700	1,887	1,200	1,261
Worship Committee	11,615	10,715	10,565	10,403
Youth Committee	15,175	7,490	13,350	10,285
Youth Gathering		0		12,327
Committee Subtotals	55,275	41,187	47,800	54,596
<b><u>Other Expenses</u></b>				
Staff Retreat	3,000	3,616	3,000	
Contingency Reserve		5,000	5,000	
Retro Pay Adjustment				5,500
Call Committee				3,583
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 819,900</b>	<b>\$ 807,955</b>	<b>\$ 803,500</b>	<b>\$ 739,346</b>
<b>Excess (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (2,800)</b>	<b>\$ 9,293</b>	<b>\$ (3,000)</b>	<b>\$ 19,585</b>

# Cross of Life Lutheran Church

## December 31, 2007 Statement of Benevolence

Member Giving for Benevolence		How Your Benevolence Was Shared	
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 3,553	ELCA /Great Milwaukee Synod	57,028
		El Salvador (Supplies, Medical, travel, etc)	22,335
Benevolence from Operating Fund	146,659	El Salvador Church Building Purchase	17,000
Extra 1% Benevolence	8,147	El Salvador Scholarships	9,185
		ELCA Scholarships for COL students	3,250
		Florist Avenue/Parish Nurse	17,000
Sources of Direct Giving		Lutheran World Hunger	10,800
El Salvador Trips	14,851	Waukesha Food Pantry	15,128
El Salvador & ELCA Scholarships	9,935	Bread of Healing Free Clinic	16,395
Bread of Healing	1,200	Genesis House	1,016
Florist Ave	2,300	Habitat for Humanity	5,000
Sunday School	4,587	Youth Servant Trip	4,000
Lent Offering	5,027	Luther Manor-Adult Day Care & General	5,115
Thanksgiving Offering	1,369	New Orleans	3,013
Lutheran World Hunger	800	Lutherdale Camping Ministries	3,000
Miscellaneous Donations	<u>2,058</u>	Springdale House (Adult Disabilities)	3,840
Total Direct Sources	<u>42,127</u>	Agape Meal Program	2,410
		Heifer Project (3 <sup>rd</sup> World Ag. Development)	1,200
		Miscellaneous	<u>3,771</u>
<b>Member giving For Benevolence</b>	<b>\$ 200,486</b>	<b>How Your Benevolence Was Shared</b>	<b>\$ 200,486</b>
Fund Balance, End of Year	<u>\$ -</u>		

**WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR COL OFFERING WITHDRAWN  
AUTOMATICALLY FROM YOUR CHECKING ACCOUNT?**

**IF SO...**

- 1.) Pick up a Member Enrollment & Authorization Form  
(on the Adult Programs bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall).
- 2.) Fill out the information and attach a voided check.
- 3.) Either mail to the address on the form or send to the church  
office attention Jon Sorenson.

**CROSS OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH - 2006 and 2007 FUND BALANCES**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b><u>12/31/2006</u></b>	<b><u>12/31/2007</u></b>
<b>Operating Cash Accounts</b>		
Petty Cash	200	200
M & I Checking	1,437	1,508
Mission Fund	36,119	37,961
Stock pending sale	0	6,227
First Business Bank	40,734	48,001
Total net cash	78,490	93,897 <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 78,490</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 93,897</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES/RESERVES</b>		
Memorial Fund	2,240	3,521
Library Fund	210	210
Prepaid Pledges	29,117	23,079
Other Liabilities (Youth, Sabbatical, Quilts)	(1,523)	12,341
Withholding P/R Taxes. IRS S.125	10,300	7,307
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES/RESERVES</b>	<b><u>\$ 40,344</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 46,458</u></b>
<b>Operating Reserve</b>		
Beginning of Year	18,561	38,146
Year to Date Surplus (Deficit)	19,585	9,293
Operating Fund Balance	38,146	47,439
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES, RESERVES, FUND BALANCES</b>	<b><u>\$ 78,490</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 93,897</u></b>
<b>Fixed Asset Account Group</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,832,798</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,832,798</u></b>
<b>Long Term Debt Account Group</b>	<b><u>\$ 858,613</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 830,676</u></b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Does not include benevolence cash of \$25,753 (will be spent Q1 2008) and Contingency Reserve fund cash of \$10,237.