

**First Lutheran Church of Southington
Worship & Music Committee
Annual Report
January 2018**

The Worship & Music Committee has worked diligently throughout the past year to continue to improve and enhance our worship experiences here at First Lutheran. While we faced some significant budget issues in the 2017 year, we worked are to continue offering services that highlight the wonderful liturgical offerings we already have.

One of the biggest changes was a reduction of salary for the Director of Music, which resulted in a scheduling change for the adult choir. The choir now only meets once a week (rehearsing and singing on Sunday mornings), to provide more scheduling flexibility to the Director.

The adult choir has seen a slight decline in enrollment and attendance in 2017. However, all things considered, they are still singing at each service, and provide the services with high-quality music.

Unfortunately, due to a variety of budget cuts, we have discontinued the practice of hiring guest musicians at Christmas and Easter.

Our Lenten Soup & Sustenance services continued to be a highlight throughout our Lenten journey, and they were all well received. For the 2017 season, we continued to use Marty Haugen's "Holden Evening Prayer," and we are currently in the planning process for the 2018 season. The Director of Music reports they he will be unavailable to participate in these services this year due to personal scheduling conflicts.

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday services portrayed the Last Supper and Passion of Our Lord in very subdued and quiet services; quite fitting of the occasion. We were pleased with the simple Meal that was shared around the Table at the Maundy Thursday services, and are looking forward towards inviting the congregation to experience this solemnity in a new way. We were also pleased with the Good Friday Tenebrae service that incorporated the reading of the Passion and music from the Taizé community. While attendance for all services was less than spectacular, we are hopeful that with more advanced notice of these services, we can improve our numbers for the 2018 year. In addition, we are looking at ways we can improve these services for the future.

Both Todd Helming and Myrna Howe was kind enough to fill in for the Director of Music during his summer absence, and graced us with their wonderful skills and abilities.

We are grateful for the work of the adult choir, acolytes, lectors & readers, communion assistants, and everyone who continues to work so hard to make our worship services so wonderful. It is a pleasure to serve you all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyler A. Boyle
Director of Music