



# 2018-2019 Ministry Reports

**La Crescent Evangelical Free Church**

1675 County Road 6 | La Crescent, MN 55947 | (507) 895-3733 | [www.lacrescentfree.org](http://www.lacrescentfree.org)

We exist to bring glory to God in all things by making disciples through Christ-centered worship, Christ-centered community, Christ-centered service, and Christ-centered multiplication.

## 2018-2019 Deaconate Report

The Deacon ministry includes, but is not limited to, the following ministries: refreshments (primarily Sunday morning), monthly fellowship meal, illness/bereavement meals and flowers, life celebrations (showers, etc.), greeters, ushers, nursery/childcare, communion preparation, facilities/grounds (maintenance, repair and remodeling), decorating, finance, office/ministry equipment/tech, and LEFC's website.

All these ministries have faithfully served Jesus and His body at LEFC this past year. I am sure each of you have been touched in some way by the practical ministries that the Deacons provide. We were all blessed by Pat Gund using her gifts to decorate the facility. We were met with a smile or hug by the greeters and a handshake by the ushers. Maybe you were blessed by those who served your children in the nursery or received a meal or flowers during a time of need. Most of us were energized by the Sunday morning refreshments and monthly meal. Many have gone to the website for information.

There is also a wonderful team effort in many of these ministries as they meet the needs of LEFC. One example is how Steve Gund, Tom Kumbier and John Olson have worked together in the Facilities/Grounds ministry to oversee LEFC's maintenance and repair needs.

In 2018-2019 the Facilities/Grounds ministry either facilitated or oversaw the following items:

- Replaced the handicap ramp
- Installed new outdoor lighting for parking area
- Repaired/restored existing children's outdoor playset
- Picked up and installed an additional outdoor playset.
- Completed landscaping projects that included installing new cedar bark around facility
- Purchased new sanctuary chairs
- Distributed the old sanctuary chairs to a small Baptist church in LaCrosse.

Facilities/Grounds future projects include:

- Get parking lot repaired, resealed and restriped
- Purchase and install outdoor benches
- Re-stain existing children's outdoor playset
- Powerwash facility and outdoor sign
- Repair leak in the facility foundation
- Develop a building usage policy

We continued to work on restructuring the Deacon ministry, and some progress was made toward our desired structure. We put together job descriptions and were able to have the majority of deaconate ministries chaired by an elected Deacon.

Two ministries will see a transition in leadership in the coming year:

After many years of service, Julie Thompson will be stepping down from leading the Illness/Bereavement Meals. Julie will still be involved, but Mary Lokken will be assuming the lead in this very practical and necessary ministry.

Another faithful servant, Melanie Mattie will assist Stephanie Campbell after leading the Life Celebrations Ministry for as long as I can remember.

Thank you Julie and Melanie for your loving and faithful service to many in LEFC.

The strength of the present Deacon ministries is that those serving are using their unique gifts for the glory of God. The “hands” are being “hands” and the “feet” are being “feet”. Our desire in the deacon ministry is that everyone in LEFC would joyfully use their gifts. There are still many deacon ministries that need additional servants to help make the load lighter. Please prayerfully consider where you could serve Jesus within His body at LEFC.

Submitted by Pastor Dan

## 2018-2019 Elder Report

Throughout 2018 and into 2019, your elders continued to meet two times each month with these specific goals. In the first meeting, we focus on the business-type decisions with a prayer focus on the needs of the members and regular attenders. If you have specific prayer needs that you wish the elders to pray through, please let us know. We continue to learn and grow in minimizing small things and dealing with stuff via e-mail, when appropriate. That frees up time for two purposes: to allow us to concentrate on bigger, weightier issues and to get home to our families at more timely points in the evening.

Our second meeting each month is typically devotional- and vision-focused but with a dedicated time of internal elder fellowship and ministry. A standing goal the elder council has had for about four years is that we want to be “a band of brothers.” This is a goal that takes time, prayer and deliberate action to build toward. By God’s grace, we are not where we were four years ago. But we are not where we think God wants us to be, so we press on.

Here is a short list of some of the items we have discussed and prayed through over the past year:

- The definition of discipleship at LEFC, including what it should look like on Sunday mornings
- Assessing our own gifts and abilities along with our shortcomings and tendencies
- Developing a more accurate and describable view of our eldership structure
  - Note: we have a plurality of elders, where no single elder has the responsibility of setting the vision and direction of LEFC
- Crafting a document to help articulate our perspective on use of the gifts of teaching and leading by all members, including women, within our body
- Working toward a comprehensive facilities use document, especially in the light of our culture’s rapidly changing perspective on sexual identity
- Continued prayer for our members, especially those who are struggling in various aspects of their lives
- Continued prayer for each other as we seek to serve, obey and love Jesus
- Continued sermon and ministry review
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I think I speak for each of the elders when I say it is indeed a privilege to serve Jesus by serving you. Together we are the body of Christ, and we each are growing at our own pace, but we firmly believe God has us right where he wants us. Let’s continue to grow and learn and serve in such a way that God is glorified!

Respectfully submitted,  
John Young

## **2018 19 Sunday Morning Ministries: Greeters, Ushers, Coffee/Treats Hospitality**

The ministries above continue to be staffed by a small army of men and woman who serve Sunday after Sunday making sure the needs of all who attend and the service itself are tended to. I cannot thank them enough for their faithfulness to the ministries of Ushering Greeting and Treats/Coffee preparation.

### **The passion of these ministries are all summarized as follows:**

The passion of the greeter, usher and hospitality Sunday Morning Ministries is to show the Love of Christ by showing a love for people that genuinely cares that they are here.

From handshakes and cooking to counting and coffee brewing, these teams service God with their gifts of time and simple availability. By doing so, they are living out the command: "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." (Romans 12:13) Many of them have dual roles throughout LEFC at large ministries and continue to be helpful and faithful in serving these ministries

Please continue to encourage and thank them for serving.

### **GREETERS:**

Dan and Susan Butterfield	Ted and Kristen Everson
Brian and Suzanne Harm	Todd and Maggie Kowalski
Dennis and Rose Napoli	Ron and Cindi Van Loon
Eric and Grace Mattie	

### **USHERS**

Steve Beno	Pete Frydenlund	Steve Gund
Joe Hatfield	John Hatfield	Tom Kumbier
Mary Lokken	Barb Meyer	Ben Meyer
John Olson	Betsy Ostrander	

### **COFFEE & TREATS HOSPITALITY**

Susan Defrane	Mary Ewers
Steve and Pat Gund	John and Bonne Hatfield
Sue Kirscher	Lou and Jodi Vogel

Submitted by Eric Mattie

## 2018-2019 Men's Ministry Report

- The purpose of men's ministry at La Crescent Evangelical Free Church (LEFC) is to provide a time and place for Christ-centered worship and Christ-centered community for men of all ages.
- One of the primary goals of the ministry is to bring encouragement and building up in the truths of God's Word through prayer, Bible study and fellowship. In addition, application of the truths of Scripture are strongly encouraged. This enables men to reflect the gospel into their homes, workplaces and the church as husbands, dads and brothers in Christ.
- LEFC men's ministry meets the second Saturday of each month from September through June. Meetings begin at 7:45 a.m. with a light breakfast provided. Then there is a prayer time, followed by the lesson.
- During the 2018-2019 term, we have utilized the book, *Respectable Sins*, by Jerry Bridges. This book highlights sins which we often tolerate, excuse and minimize. The goal has been to make an application of the truths of Scripture with regard to these subtle sins in order to transform the lives of men.
- Developing honesty, transparency and integrity is an integral part of men's ministry. Men are encouraged to share the ups and downs of life, so that all will be challenged to trust the Lord Jesus in our respective walks of life. In addition, development of accountability partnerships is encouraged, as well as connecting, growing and serving the Lord and His church.

Submitted by Steve Thompson  
LEFC Men's Ministry coordinator

## 2018-2019 Women's Ministry Report

The women's ministry at LEFC has continued on with a theme of "Women in the Word" for the 2018/2019 ministry year. Our desire is to help one another in keeping God's Word central to our everyday life.

Last summer we hosted women's nights at the church once a month. Our speakers included Emily Ross, Shelly Danielson, and Maggie Kowalski, and each shared of different ways their faith has propelled them to action in their lives. These evenings included dinner and guided table discussions. In addition to these monthly events, we enjoyed a casual time of fellowship hosted by Sharilyn Hop each month.

We studied the book of Philippians last fall using a book by Melissa Kruger entitled "In All Things: A Nine Week Devotional Bible Study on Unshakable Joy." This study included daily homework to be done individually and a group discussion guide for each section of Philippians. Our group was made up of more than 20 women of all ages and stages, and we were so encouraged by the book of Philippians and in fellowship with one another.

In December, we carried the focus on joy in Christ from our Philippians study into our Christmas brunch theme: The Joy of Christmas. We were so blessed by our guest speakers, Brandon and Cyra Wilkins, who shared of God's work in their lives and how they have experienced joy in Christ through times of hardship and suffering.

Our next weekly study started in late January, and we have been going through the book, "Identity Theft: Reclaiming the Truth of Who We Are in Christ." Each of the 10 chapters focuses on a different aspect of our identity in Christ and is paired with questions for group discussion and Bible study. Again we have a group of around 20 women, and it has been edifying and refining to sift through the topic of identity together.

### *Mom2Mom:*

Mom2Mom is a group of women seeking fellowship and encouragement in various stages of motherhood. We meet the first and third Thursday morning of every month throughout the school year, and also meet for park playdates on those mornings throughout the summer months.

This school year we have walked through a study on parenting called "The Art of Parenting" in the fall, and we are currently going through "Sacred Parenting" for the spring semester. Each study has directed our minds as parents toward the kingdom of God and His truth for our family lives. These study times are made possible by the help of our childcare volunteers, who care for a busy room of babies, toddlers, and older in the church nursery during our meetings.

Submitted by Tyanne Perry.

## 2018-2019 Christian Education Report: Adults & Children Sunday School

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Two major blessings highlight this year's children's SS ministry.

First we have been blessed this year to have more teaching and assistant teams than we have had in the previous years. The majority of the classes have three teaching teams, so each team would teach for three weeks and then have six weeks off. This allows time for other ministries and help stave off any burn out. They have each brought their passion, creativity and their willingness to teach the Bible. The additional advantage of the teams have been the help in last minute substitutions if they are needed. **Please thank and encourage the teaching teams for their help in sharing the gospel with the kids and for coming along the parents in raising children in the fear of the Lord and the joy of salvation.**

With more volunteers this year, we were able to open up a third class for the PreK and kindergarten-age children. This was a much needed transition class from nursery to the Sunday School setting. We have a faithful and loving team of Kate Ideker/Susan DeFrane and LeeAnn Finn/ Lydia Danielson. They have worked hard in making the lessons memorable and the class fun.

For 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes, we have three teams of Robyn /Justin Bolyard, Besty Ostrander/Skylar Matter and Cyrus/Irina Mason. Their consistent input and passion to teach has led to improvements in the classroom, the presentation of the lessons and a cycle of enthusiasm each time they enter the classroom.

In our 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade class, we have three teams of Ben/Barb Meyer, Allison Mattie/ Steve Thompson and Steve Thompson w/Nate Steen or Will Kowalski. This class continues to be key as kids' interest in the Bible, spiritual questions and practical application in living it out grows. The teachers on these teams represent a solid faithfulness as they have been long-term volunteers in this ministry. It is a great consistency for the kids during this age.

We have had quality substitutes who have been willing to step in as needed – Stephanie Campbell and Hannah Love have both been with the Children's SS on a more fulltime basis. We appreciate their continued support of the kingdom work in this ministry.

The second blessing is utilization of a new curriculum in the younger class levels. The *Generations of Grace* curriculum takes the students through the Biblical narrative in a three-year arch. We switched to this format for the younger classes (PreK thru 2) for two reasons: (1) we felt it was more user friendly for preparation and understanding, and (2) it fulfilled our goal have more Bible-literate youth by the time they hit the middle elementary years (grades 3-6) where they continue the more thematic curriculum of *Children Desiring God*. In other words, *Generations* provides a foundation for better understanding of *Children Desiring God*. The feedback on the curriculum from the teams have been very positive. We plan on utilizing the *Generations* second year this coming fall.

## **ADULT'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The Adult Sunday School underwent a format change to coincide with LEFC mission statement to make disciples through Christ Centered Worship, Communities, Service and Multiplication. We have organized more topical classes over a three-session format taking place over the fall to spring seasons. The classes vary in length and offer elective choices according to interest and maturity level

In the first session there was a biblical worldview class *Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*. The follow-up classes in the second session were elective classes: *A Bible Overview of the Prison Epistles* and a Christ-centered worldview/ lifestyle class entitled *Don't Waste Your Live*. The third session electives include a guidance class on the will of God and an introductory class on apologetics.

I want to thank the teachers of these various classes: John Young, Ryan Perry, Nick Patchen, and Melanie Mattie. Your time and effort to help teach these classes are appreciated. I look forward to working with other teachers in upcoming sessions as we continue to make disciples that deeply love and know the Lord and Savior for the Glory of God!!

Submitted by Eric Mattie

## 2018-2019 Nursery Report

The LEFC nursery provides child care for children from birth to five years old. It is open on Sunday mornings during both services. Requests for nursery during special events at the church can be made to Emily Ross. If the nursery can be staffed with at least two workers, the request will be approved.

Overall, nursery had a good year. We continue to have new children due to new and regular attendees. We do occasionally get visitors as well. A number of changes were implemented in November 2018 stemming from the new Nursery Handbook that was implemented. This was done for a few reasons: (1) ensure children in the nursery are safe and parents feel comfortable bringing their children; (2) ensure volunteers feel confident while working and have standards to follow when issues or questions arise; (3) enable on-boarding new volunteers and children to be standardized.

### Nursery by statistics:

- Average children per week: 8
  - o Average in 1<sup>st</sup> service: 3
  - o Average in 2<sup>nd</sup> service: 5
- Total children registered: 15
- Total number of workers: 21
  - o Average on active duty: 15
  - o Average on break: 2
  - o Total Substitutes: 4

### New things this year:

- Nursery Handbook implemented in November 2018; a copy is available upon request.
  - o Handbook with nursery protocols for items such as check in/out, cleaning, accidents, etc.
  - o Updated child registration paperwork on all children; copies made available to nursery workers.
  - o New accident slips implemented.
  - o New cleaning checklist for every week (after 2<sup>nd</sup> service).
  - o Training quiz for volunteers after reading handbook.
  - o New nursery 101 sheet for new parents.
- Nursery Cleaning Day will happen every six months. The first cleaning day was done on October 27, 2018. **Thank you again to everyone who helped.** Nursery was re-arranged, and all toys, floors, and surfaces were cleaned and sorted. Broken toys were disposed of and some toys were put away to be rotated in and out. Next cleaning day will be in early May 2019.
- Updated background checks for volunteers where needed.
- New cleaning supplies and directions:

- Kit for vomit
- Extra clothes in case of accidents
- Dirty toy bucket to keep up on cleaning on a weekly basis

**Things coming up in 2019:**

- Some new purchases for infants. We have an influx of children under 16 months and will be getting a new pack and play for moms when babies need to nap during service or meetings as well as some more infant-based toys.
- Next Cleaning Day May 4, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.
- Looking for new volunteers to alleviate burnout for workers. Typically, we have just enough to have four workers per week once a month. However, if people need a break (three-month rotation), it can cause the need for others to work multiple times a month, which can be difficult if they are involved in other ministries.

Submitted by Emily Ross

## **2018-2019 Missions Report**

Much of the Missions Committee time over the past year was put into producing a revised and updated Missions Policy. This was approved by the Elders and can be found in the foyer. The operating procedures and vision are laid out in this document, and we encourage you to read it.

We continued partnering with Children's Vision, The Clines, The Danielsons, Prince Paul, The Keres and Klockenga Families, Josie Kosky, and the Yoders.

We are no longer supporting the Bryant's because they have returned from Indonesia permanently. Also, after many years of service, the Sitton's have retired from their ministry at To Every Tribe.

Ghana recently shut down all orphanages and is attempting to place every orphan in a foster home. This means that Pastor Timothy is no longer running the orphanage and our monthly support for their food is not needed.

We're excited to be working for a new level of support for our missionaries that is more personal. This past year we requested that each small group "adopt" a missionary. This step was taken to grow in our relationships with our missionaries. Small groups are the way members individually connect and grow in community at LEFC, so missionaries have been incorporated in this dynamic.

The Missions Committee oversees the monthly "Missions Moment." Each missionary has been assigned a month of the year when we put the spotlight on them through updates in the bulletins and Sunday services. We anticipate growing this to include other opportunities to serve our missionaries in the future.

Next year, in addition to supporting our current missionaries, we plan on sending an individual short term on behalf of LEFC to encourage and support one of our present missionaries. We are also anticipating partnering with a new missionary and will start that process this coming year.

These changes have been driven by the Missions Committee's purpose laid out in the new policy. It is our hope and prayer that we are faithful in our goal of glorifying God by making disciples of all nations.

Submitted by Cyrus Mason, Missions Committee Chair

## **2018-2019 Library Report**

The Library is located in the lower level of the church building in Room 105 and is available for use any time the church building is open. Checking out resources is easy; just follow the instructions posted at the library desk.

We currently offer: picture books, youth chapter books, adult fiction books, adult non-fiction books, audio resources and DVDs.

We welcome donations of new and used Christian Material. Donations can be dropped off in the library, and upon approval they will be added to the collection.

Submitted by Sharilyn Hop