



**Shepherd of the Prairie
Lutheran Church**

Annual Report
January 30, 2011

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Annual Meeting Agenda
January 30, 2011

I. Call to Order

II. Quorum Call

III. Opening Prayer

IV. Looking Back

1. Approval of Minutes from January 24, 2010 Annual Meeting
2. Approval of Committee and Ministry Reports
3. Approval of 2010 Financial Reports
4. Recognition of Outgoing Council Members
Kris Fleener, Dick Larrison, Carol Lulla, Jules Pelka

V. Looking Ahead

- 2011 Ministries – Pastor Mark
Purpose Statement & Guiding Principles
Staffing Introduction
New Ministries

Change to By-Law C11-03

Motion:

Since the Congregation extended council member terms from two to three years at the 24 Jan 2010 Annual Meeting; and since it was an oversight not to also consider changing By-Law C11-03 to allow officers to serve three consecutive terms; and since this will provide more flexibility in electing council and congregational officers; the council recommends that By-Law C11-03 be amended as follows:

“No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than three consecutive (one-year) terms in the same office.”

Motion to provide more SOTP funds for debt reduction

Motion:

Since the council recognizes an opportunity to reduce SOTP mortgage debt and enable future mission; and since we are blessed with the means to reduce our debt; the council recommends that \$50,000 be transferred from the General Fund to the Building Fund for immediate debt reduction. The council further recommends that \$25,000 be transferred from the General Fund to the Building Fund to be applied to debt reduction at the council’s discretion.

- Elections (*Nominating Committee Report p. 35*)
 1. Election of Audit Committee
 2. Election of 2011 Nominating Committee
 3. Election of Voting Member to the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly
 4. Election of New Council Members
 5. 8 Jan Leadership Retreat on “Staffing for Growth” update

Approval of 2011 Budget – Jerry Warnke

VI. Closing Prayer

VII. Adjournment

Shepherd of the Prairie Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes January 24, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 11:52

Quorum required is 87. 99 members were present

Walter Roth and George Sebastian are tellers

Dave Johnson is Parliamentarian

Opening Prayer – Pastor Mark Boster

LOOKING BACK

A motion to approve the **Minutes from Annual Meeting of January 25, 2009** was made by Sandy Hupert and 2nd by Rich Willie.

—*Motion was voted on and approved.*

A motion to approve the **Committee and Ministry Reports** was made by Ron Knudson and 2nd by Ferdie Kimminau.

—*Motion was voted on and approved.*

2009 Financial Reports

General Fund – Gerry Warnke - A motion to approve the **2009 General Fund Financial Report** was made by George Sebastian and 2nd by Wally Fuelgraff. Gerry reviewed the financials that were provided in the report. No questions were raised.

—*Motion was voted on and approved.*

Building Fund – Jim Henley – A motion to approve the **2009 Building Fund Financial Report** was made by Bob Zimmerman and 2nd by Rich Willie. Jim spoke on the fact that last year at this time it was thought that the fund would be short \$260,000. Due to the amount of faith items received and strong management of the financials the project came in on time and under budget. Currently there is a \$50,000 shortfall. Still working on the punch list with about \$100,00 left in outlay. Gerry then reviewed the numbers in the report.

Alice Hallett asked about the funds from the Crafters Sales. These should all be going directly to the principal of the mortgage and it is being lumped in with all funds. Alice will talk to the crafters for 2010. For 2009 keep the \$8,000 in the fund as it is.

Don Petelle asked about the mortgage with MIF being 3% for 7 years with a balloon payment at that time. The building funds are in a money market getting about 1%. Don is requesting the finance team to look at short term investments to earn more interest.

—*Motion was voted on and approved.*

Recognition of Outgoing Council Members

Kathy Dahl & Mike Kasal

Mike presented a montage video of the past year and spoke on the ministries of the past.

LOOKING AHEAD

2010 Ministries - Pastor Mark spoke on:

- a. The Purpose Statement & Guiding Principles of SOTP
- b. Thanked Patty and Greg
- c. Continue to be outwardly focused with a new Mission Team
- d. SOTP has Business Cards. Know them and pray over them
Remember the greatest asset for SOTP is the people

A motion was made by Jim Henley and 2nd by Ferdie Kimminau for the following **Change to By-Law C12.02**:

The members of the Congregation Council except for the Pastor(s) shall be elected to serve for three (3) years or until their successors are elected . Their terms shall be so arranged that one-third of their terms expire annually. Such member shall be eligible to serve no more than two (2) full terms consecutively. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected

—*Motion was voted on and approved.*

A motion was made by Sandy Hupert and 2nd by Alice Hallett on the **Loan Repayment resolution** put forth by the Council:

The Congregation Council recommends that the existing \$45,000 loan from the Northern Illinois Synod be paid back in full from the General Fund.

- a. Pastor talked to the Bishop about this. The \$45,000 will back into the fund for new mission starts. Churches are struggling to make payments and this would help those congregations.
- b. Rich Willie indicated that this is being carried on the books as a building liability. This will be closed out on the building fund.
- c. Jessica Panella indicated that the money should be coming out of the building fund. They are two separate funds at two separate banks.
- d. Sandy Hupert suggested writing a check from the General Fund to the Building Fund then paying back the loan.
- e. Bob Zimmerman asked that since this is a 0% loan and not being called why not wait until it is called to pay it back.
- f. Sandy Hupert indicated we need to pay back. Without this money we would not be here.
- g. Kathy McGuine – we need to look forward
- h. Francis Wilson asked what this loan was for. Jessica Panella indicated that it was for the purchase of the land.

Rich Willie made a motion that the funds be moved from the General Fund to the Building Fund and then makes the payment to the Northern Illinois Synod. This motion was 2nd by Jim McGuine.

—*Motion was voted on and approved.*

Bob Zimmerman made a new motion with George Sebastian 2nd:

The Congregation Council recommends that the existing \$45,000 loan from the Northern Illinois Synod be paid back in full from the Building Fund.

—*Motion was voted on and approved.*

Election of Audit Committee – Patrick Desiato is coming off of this committee. Thank you for your time on this committee. Sandy Hupert made a motion and George Sebastian 2nd to elect Charlie Powe to a 3 year term.

—*Motion was voted on and approved.*

A motion was made by Ferdie Kimminau and 2nd by Victor Pizzaro to **Elect the following members to the 2010 Nominating Committee**:

Kathy Dahl & Mike Kasal (Outgoing Council Members)

Jim Auwerda, Walter Roth, Jennifer Trevino, Bob McDuffie

A motion was made by Jessica Panella and 2nd by Rich Willie to **Elect the following members to be the Voting Members to Northern Illinois Synod Assembly**:

Jeff Cordle & Lori Conway

A motion was made by Richard Dahl and 2nd by Sandy Hupert to **Extend the current term of the following Council Members by 1 year**:

Devin Burg, Gerry Warnke & Kris Fleener

Carl Hupert asked if there was something in the constitution about extending terms. Here is not, but this extension is in support of the by-law approved earlier.

—*Motion was voted on and approved.*

A motion was made by Ron Mudge and 2nd by Jim Henley to **Elect the following new members to the council with the term noted:**

Jules Pelka (One year Term)

Rebecca Fulcer, Larry Newbanks & Kathy Pizarro (3 Year Term)

—*Motion was voted on and approved.*

A motion was made by Sue Wehnes and 2nd by Rich Willie to **Approve the 2010 Budget:**

Gerry Warnke reviewed the budget as it is in the report and noted the following:

- General fund currently has \$204,000 in cash. This is made up of \$123,000 in prior year's excess funds, \$62,000 in excess in 2009 and \$25,000 in restricted accounts.
- Pledge and loose plate income was \$17,000 higher than planned
- We budgeted \$38,000 for staffing for growth and only spent \$12,000
- Staff training and continuing education was budgeted at \$10,000 and only spent \$4,000
- The budget for Natural Church Development and Stewardship Committee was not spent.
- Moving out of the Cosman Center early saved some on rental expense.
- In general, the staff, Pastor and volunteers have done a good job of staying within the budget guidelines.
- Our donation to the ELCA Northern Illinois Synod was \$38,000 with another \$1,850 being sent in January. This will complete our pledge of 11% of pledge and loose plate offerings.

—*Motion was voted on and approved.*

Mark your calendars for January 30, 2011 for our next annual meeting

Pastor Mark led our closing prayer

A motion was made by Jim Auwerda and 2nd by Sandy Hupert to Adjournment this meeting at 1:02

—*Motion was voted on and approved.*

Prayerfully submitted,
—*Kris Fleener*

Financial Reports

1:53 PM

01/09/11

Accrual Basis

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2010

	Dec 31, 10
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Citizens First National bank	175,923.17
Total Checking/Savings	175,923.17
Total Current Assets	175,923.17
TOTAL ASSETS	175,923.17
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Restricted Donations	
Christmas Shoebox	247.00
AV Ministry	1,500.00
World Vision	325.00
Confirmation retreat	-982.90
Youth & Family Ministry	2,786.06
Youth - KCK	588.53
Thrivent Fund	393.33
Retreat Youth/Scholarship	453.00
Prayer Shawl Ministry	75.00
Music Ministry	1,823.92
Music - Bells	298.68
Mission Trip	2,992.46
Local Programs	500.00
Misc Gift	789.63
Little Lambs	1,647.77
Hymnal	434.20
Heifer Project	529.68
Good Samaritan	1,901.31
Endowment Fund	5,030.00
Compassion Int'l	-90.00
Childrens Ministry	700.00
Provision for Inreach	2,500.00
Provision for Bldg. & Grounds	17,500.00
Provision for Maintenance	17,500.00
Provision for Equipment	2,500.00
Provision for Outreach	2,500.00
Total Restricted Donations	64,442.67
Total Other Current Liabilities	64,442.67
Total Current Liabilities	64,442.67
Total Liabilities	64,442.67
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	103,683.14
Net Income	7,797.36
Total Equity	111,480.50
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	175,923.17

Financial Reports (cont)

1:52 PM

01/09/11

Accrual Basis

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January through December 2010

	Jan - Dec 10	Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Pledge Contributions	298,167.08	355,369.00
Un-Pledged Contributions	88,173.51	20,000.00
Misc. Contributions	32,504.36	22,631.00
Flowers	2,130.00	3,000.00
Interest	1,053.02	3,000.00
Total Income	422,027.97	404,000.00
Expense		
Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00	
Mission Ministry		
Good Samaritan	627.30	500.00
Local Mission	4,428.53	3,980.00
ELCA NI Synod	47,925.00	43,780.00
Total Mission Ministry	52,980.83	48,260.00
Outreach Ministry		
Outreach/Evangelism	6,000.90	6,500.00
Advertising	7,548.68	7,500.00
Misc. Outreach expenses	358.34	1,000.00
Outreach Ministry - Other	663.76	
Total Outreach Ministry	14,571.68	15,000.00
Christian Education Ministry		
Adult Discipleship	774.18	4,000.00
Confirmation	2,257.70	800.00
Sunday School	2,811.38	2,000.00
VBS	3,184.50	2,000.00
Small group ministries	0.00	400.00
Retreats	0.00	1,500.00
Misc. Christian Ed.	84.98	
Total Christian Education Ministry	9,112.74	10,700.00
Youth Ministry		
DUIJ	2,528.21	3,000.00
Kool Christian kids (6-8)	1,965.99	1,000.00
Youth (K-5)	11.50	1,000.00
Retreats	142.55	1,500.00
Misc. Youth expenses	456.71	
Total Youth Ministry	5,104.96	6,500.00
Music Ministry		
1st Service Music	170.99	350.00
2nd Service Music	35.70	350.00
Childrens Music Ministry	576.68	500.00
Bell Choir	882.30	500.00
Rejoice choir	0.00	500.00
Shepherds Voices	38.44	500.00
Special Music	300.00	400.00
Licensing fees	942.90	1,500.00
Misc. Music expenses	1,632.56	500.00
Total Music Ministry	4,579.57	5,100.00
Worship Ministry		
Flowers	3,261.35	3,000.00
Altar Guild	1,134.01	1,500.00
Pastoral assistance	800.00	1,000.00
Worship supplies	814.80	550.00
Misc Worship expenses	1,328.07	
Total Worship Ministry	7,338.23	6,050.00

Financial Reports (cont)

1:52 PM

01/09/11

Accrual Basis

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January through December 2010

	Jan - Dec 10	Budget
Facilities		
Cleaning service	8,475.16	8,320.00
Utilities	11,034.58	17,000.00
Waste removal	1,031.51	840.00
Insurance	4,845.00	5,900.00
Lawn care/Snow removal	9,685.00	4,400.00
Maint./Cleaning supplies	0.00	1,250.00
Fire system monitoring	1,596.00	2,160.00
Misc. Facilities expenses	9,010.92	1,130.00
Total Facilities	45,678.17	41,000.00
Office expenses		
Office supplies	7,009.66	10,000.00
Office equipment	912.60	750.00
Web/software expenses	599.02	1,000.00
Postage	1,360.47	2,500.00
Dues & Subscriptions	1,282.66	500.00
Equipmental rental	8,047.00	5,800.00
Misc. Office expenses	727.72	500.00
Total Office expenses	19,939.13	21,050.00
Staffing Ministry		
Pastor Salary	42,829.96	42,830.00
Pastor Housing Allowance	32,000.00	32,000.00
Lay Ministry Coord.	15,600.00	15,760.00
Youth Ministry Coord.	24,933.38	21,000.00
Director of Music	30,963.36	27,315.00
Office Manager	23,910.03	23,910.00
Office Assistant	6,790.00	9,360.00
Staff training/Con't Ed	3,909.28	5,000.00
Social Security	7,432.51	8,200.00
Pastor Health Ins. & S.S.	38,929.40	40,200.00
Misc. Staff expenses	1,795.11	2,000.00
Total Staffing Ministry	229,093.03	227,575.00
Other Church expenses		
Scholarships	1,010.00	1,200.00
Committee expenses	1,862.82	2,000.00
Automobile expense	3,174.57	3,000.00
Human resources	3,377.00	1,000.00
Bank/Legal expenses	286.20	300.00
Misc. expenses	3,621.68	2,765.00
Total Other Church expenses	13,332.27	10,265.00
Providing for the Future		
Provision for Outreach	2,500.00	2,500.00
Provision for Inreach	2,500.00	2,500.00
Provision for Equipment	2,500.00	2,500.00
Provision for Maintenance	2,500.00	2,500.00
Provision for Bldg. & Grounds	2,500.00	2,500.00
Total Providing for the Future	12,500.00	12,500.00
Payroll Expenses	0.00	
Total Expense	414,230.61	404,000.00
Net Ordinary Income	7,797.36	0.00
Net Income	7,797.36	0.00

Financial Reports (cont)

2:02 PM
01/09/11
Cash Basis

Shepherd of the Prairie Building Fund Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2010

	<u>Dec 31, 10</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
PNC Bank	52,811.60
Total Checking/Savings	<u>52,811.60</u>
Total Current Assets	52,811.60
Fixed Assets	
Land/Road/Building	1,980,000.00
Total Fixed Assets	<u>1,980,000.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>2,032,811.60</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Long Term Liabilities	
Faith Item Donations	
Church Office	1,110.90
High School	1,600.00
Kathy Pohlman Memorial	5,840.00
Landscape	1,765.58
Nursery	86.05
Pastor's Office	1,287.10
Sign	100.00
Total Faith Item Donations	11,789.63
MIF Building Loan	1,674,901.02
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>1,686,690.65</u>
Total Liabilities	1,686,690.65
Equity	
Retained Earnings	245,435.11
Net Income	100,685.84
Total Equity	<u>346,120.95</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>2,032,811.60</u></u>

Financial Reports (cont)

2:01 PM
01/09/11
Cash Basis

Shepherd of the Prairie Building Fund Profit & Loss January through December 2010

	Jan - Dec 10
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Contributions	
Memorial fund	50.00
Memorial - Yearmod	10.00
Memorial - Janet Rieck	100.00
Memorial - Schnake	85.00
Memorial - Carlson	50.00
Memorial - Peterson	50.00
Memorial - McMahon	15.00
Building on Blessings Campaign	199,242.50
Building on Blessings - Kids	74.50
Christmas Card Greeting Fund	595.00
Debt Reduction	14,213.00
Memorial - Mary Jane Nelson	150.00
Memorial - J Wood	10.00
Memorial - Henley	25.00
Memorial - Auwarda	805.00
Memorial - Dan Mesenbrink	775.00
Memorial - Madson	100.00
Prairie Crafters	7,311.26
Total Contributions	223,661.26
Interest Income	728.51
Total Income	224,389.77
Expense	
Bank Service Charge	112.18
Construction Management Fee	-4,932.25
Drain Tile Services	206.68
Earthwork/Site Development	9,050.00
General Carpentry	7,225.50
General Contractor Fees	16,989.55
Glass & Glazing	2,112.85
HVAC	15,740.50
Insulation Wall & Ceiling	1,328.00
Interest - Building Loan	57,643.77
Landscape	7,088.85
Masonry	2,250.60
Painting	928.45
Permit Allowance	284.00
Roofing	4,270.25
Site Utilities	3,000.00
Testing Allowance	405.00
Total Expense	123,703.93
Net Ordinary Income	100,685.84
Net Income	100,685.84

Financial Reports (cont)

MIF Loan Report

MIF loan balance as of 1/1/10	1,971,235.66
Principal reductions thru loan payments	106,444.23
2009 Memorials	2,760.00
2009 Prairie Crafters	8,381.65
2010 Memorials	2,225.00
2010 Prairie Crafters	7,311.26
Debt Reduction	14,213.00
Christmas Card Fund	595.00
Principal reduction	100,000.00
Building on Blessings - Youth	74.50
Building on Blessings Principal only	54,330.00
	296,334.64
 MIF Loan balance 12/31/2010	 1,674,901.02
 Interest paid on loan for 2010	 57,643.77

Pastor Mark Boster Loan

Balance 01/01/2010	\$6,000.00
Loan forgiveness 2010	\$2,000.00
Balance 12/31/2010	\$4,000.00

Original loan to Pastor Mark was for \$10000.00
 \$4000 of the \$10000 was forgiven in previous years

Statistical Report				
Year	2007	2008	2009	2010
Baptized Members	421	478	531	711
Worship Attendance	229	241	362	392
Ministry Income	\$304,068	\$321,632	\$371,390	\$422,028
Baptisms		21 Children 4 Adults	8 Children, 3 Adults	9 Children 4 Adults
Weddings		4	2	7
Confirmations		6	2	9

Pastor's Report to the Congregation

January 2011

Statement of Purpose

"We Care for God's Children of all ages by growing disciples who make disciples"

Guiding Principles

We do our best when we...

- Listen to God
- Welcome enthusiastically
- Teach the life and love of Jesus
- Equip people to make a difference in God's World

In the Old Testament, kings believed that God gave them direction in their dreams. If they wanted to know what they were supposed to do in their administration, they would try to receive a direct word from God in their dreams. If they weren't getting any messages in their dreams while lying in their own beds, then they would sleep in the Temple, where they believed it would work better.

Some believe this is where we have received permission to sleep while in church. My father would on occasion close his eyes in worship and I would give him a gentle nudge. Dad's response always was "I am meditating".

Brick and mortar. Lumber and nails. Plenty of insulation. Rock and concrete. When you build a church, what are the elements you want to include? Does it have to have a steeple? Must you have a bell in a bell tower? Do you install pews, or use removable chairs to give your building more versatility?

When Jesus built his church, he didn't consider any of these components. When Jesus built his church, he started with a very small, but firm foundation. Upon that foundation, he built a structure that has been rocked and windblown, shaken and flooded, even attacked by numerous enemies, and yet has withstood and survived down through the ages.

With a great deal of energy, enthusiasm, sacrifice and joy God has brought us together into his building for a full year. We have enjoyed his company as well as the company of many who have come to see what God is up to in and through this church.

What is this church of Jesus Christ supposed to be? I love what the book of 1 Peter says about the church. The church that Jesus built was a living church, alive with the "living stones" (1 Peter 2:5) that were its building materials. Living stones that had as their cornerstone the very stone that the builders of the world had rejected. Though rejected by mortals, God previously chose this cornerstone, so that it would become the foundation for his building on earth.

Jesus had faith in his construction ability. Though he had the whole world from which to choose, he selected very simple material: a few fishermen, a tax collector, and some others of seemingly simple means and position. There were no kings in his foundation. He didn't use any successful business personalities in his first floor. And he completed the first stage of his structure without the help of aggressive marketers and developers.

Jesus just used stones, a variety of living stones. He used stones that would weather the cause. Stones that would not crumble under the weight that would be built upon them. The building material that Jesus chose was well suited for the building he intended to construct. For the church that Jesus was building was to be a living, breathing construction of dynamic proportions. One that would outlast the ancient structures of Jesus' time that still stand today. The church of Jesus Christ was built to last an eternity.

Jesus built his church with living stones. Peter calls us "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people." He goes on to say that because we are as such, we can proclaim to the world "the mighty acts of him" who called us "out of darkness into his marvelous light." We don't read anything here that talks about a sleeping church, or a stagnant church, or a church built with inanimate materials that are held together with mortar or nails. The church that Jesus built was built with carefully chosen building materials that, like the material of no other building, are alive and vibrant and continue to build themselves. Materials that will not become brittle and break apart, but that will continue to breathe new life into the church.

We are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation." Before Jesus, we were nothing. Nothing held us together. We were not a people; we were only individuals inhabiting the same world. Jesus changed our world, and that's exciting. Jesus made us into God's people by making us into his church. Jesus pulled us together and united us into something special.

Can one person change the world forever? With the billions of people who now inhabit the earth, a statement like that seems trivial. Of course one person can have an impact. One person can cause a degree of good or a degree of bad. But one person is not going to make much difference in the whole scheme of things.

Yet we believe that one person has changed the world. That the organization of people started by one man over 2,000 years ago is still changing the world from day to day. That a small nucleus of people living in an ancient time has grown into the great body we call the church, and that it will continue to grow in unity, from now until the time that its founder returns to this world. We believe that no power on earth can cause this church to crumble, because Jesus is the cornerstone. And Jesus will hold it together.

This Annual Report is filled with testimonies that proclaim we are not about a church building; we are about "church building." Our statement of purpose and guiding principles guide our lives of service and call us to a marvelous partnership in ministry.

Jesus knew he couldn't do it alone. He knew he needed others to help him. The job of building his church would be turned over to those who would follow him. Now, it is in our hands. How shall we build our church? Will we build with brick and mortar, or with living stones? Are you willing to get your hands dirty? Are you willing to exercise your spiritual muscles? Don't wait for someone to call, Jesus is, follow his lead to give your life to him.

A little boy was watching his father fry some eggs for the family breakfast and said he had a joke. "Dad, how can you eat an egg without cracking the shell?"

His father thought about it for several moments then finally concluded, "I don't know how. How do you eat an egg without cracking the shell?"

The little boy replied, "Have someone else crack it for you."

Sometimes people in the church want the benefits the church has to offer without sharing the responsibilities. We all want to receive the blessing as long as someone else does the praying. We all want more people in the pews as long as someone else does the inviting. We all want to see the church built up with more programs as long as someone else does the work.

If you want to eat eggs, you're going to have to break some shells. And if you want to build a church, you're going to have become a part of the construction crew.

It is such a joy for me to be Pastor of this church. I have been given a marvelous vantage point to see how so many are involved in bringing what it is like in heaven to earth. My sincere thanks to you for the privilege of serving alongside of you and most especially alongside our Master, Lord and friend, Jesus Christ.



Lay Ministry Coordinator

What a year! Beginning with the Ministry Fair on January 9&10 surprising many congregants that there are upwards of 55 ministries, we began growing in the consciousness that all activity in and thru SOTP is “Ministry”: the sole purpose being to serve our God through service to our own community and beyond. And ‘ministry has poured out like living waters’, now with 84 ministries.

As Lay Ministry Coordinator my call is to live our Guiding Principles of the Congregation through the members. I Listen to God through prayer with people and events and welcome enthusiastically the living faith of our membership through varied and ever new ministries.

(See the Ministry Action Chart)

We have continued the former ministries which are very established; and begun new ones as well. My role has been to invite people, discern call with them, and accompany the development of groups, sometimes over months of direct involvement in their meetings. Other new ministries I am present to and support the leaders who just “take off.”

Some of the New Ministries are: The Mission Team, The Outreach Team, Fun for All Ages Team, People Living Alone, Friends Bible Study, Men’s Bible Study, Men’s Group, Photography, Transportation to Sunday Services, and Green Thumb.

The congregation has responded very generously, too, to spontaneous ministries: saving a life through the Blood Drive; and having fun while painting apartments for seniors during the Paint A Thon at Green Trees.

With our Congregation WELCA Leadership, I attended the WELCA Synod Conference “Act Boldly, Seek and Support Equal Justice”. It was deeply reflective and animating.

This year Pastor Mark and I partnered 4 New Member Gatherings including 107 (not counting children) people discerning a call to SOTP. Several Ministry Group leaders were invited to share their own ministry participation to give a flavor of our life at SOTP.

We continue to attempt to spread the Word through our ministry event photos publishing in the NW Herald and the Tribune Local. There are weekly activity announcements in the Daily Herald. This is an expanding ministry.

It has been my privilege to walk with you. We have all, indeed, responded well being the hands and feet of Jesus. You have made my position easier as there is always a “yes” to your own gifts with which our God has equipped you to make a difference in our Congregation and in our World. Your own living Faith compels you! Thank you for walking faithfully with God and for allowing me to be a part of your journey and that of the Congregation of Shepherd of the Prairie.

—*Patty Driscoll-Shaw*

Youth and Family Ministry

Shepherd of the Prairie's Youth and Family Ministries still hold to 5 basic principles:

- Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships.
- The church is a living partnership between the ministry of the congregation and ministry of the home.
- Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too.
- Faith is caught more than it is taught.
- If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults.

Summary of 2010 Accomplishments

9 Students confirmed in Rite of Affirmation of Baptism

44 Students enrolled in Confirmation

Moved meeting time for Confirmation from Wednesday evenings to Sundays at 9am in order to accommodate more students

13 Confirmation students attended 2010 Spring Confirmation Retreat at Lutherdale Bible Camp in Elkhorn, Wisconsin

22 Confirmation students attended 2010 Fall Confirmation Retreat at Lutheran Outdoors Ministries Center in Oregon, Illinois

Confirmation class is still sponsoring John Maina Kamau, through Compassion International

Attended "Feed My Starving Children" to package food to send to areas of hunger

Implemented "The Well" model of ministering to youth

Held "Well Summer Backyard Party"

Held "Well Fall Family Fun Fest" at Richardson Corn Maze

Youth collected and packed 142 boxes for Operation Christmas Child

High School Youth participated in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine

Brought Peder Eide to SOTP for intergenerational concert

10 students attended Mission Trip to the Navajo Indian Reservation in Window Rock, Arizona

Added Sunday School experience identical to 9am service for 10:30am service

111 young people attended Vacation Bible School

Looking forward to

Attending Feed My Starving Children in Spring

Spring Confirmation Retreat

Summer Mission Trip to Red River Gorge, Kentucky

Summer Church camp at Crossings Camp, Hardin Kentucky, on Kentucky Lake

Confirming 11 students in Rite of Affirmation of Baptism

30 Hour Famine

—Greg Dowell

Congregation Council Report

2010 was another year of significant congregational growth and ministry expansion for Shepherd of the Prairie (SOTP). The various reports contained in this Annual Report detail the results of many of you to address this growth and expanded ministry. The council's role is to provide guidance and facilitate your efforts. To provide focus, the council developed 2010 Congregation Goals that were presented to the congregation in March. I would like to review them with you and summarize how SOTP members met these challenges. Note that while my review covers the council's focus for 2010, this congregation accomplished many other activities and changes that are covered in other reports. The council fully appreciates and thanks all of you for your ministry.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Keeping all SOTP members informed is an ongoing council focus. Originally we expected to expand communication through Sunday forums. However, forums are not well attended and, instead, we turned to technology. Today most of you receive the "SOTP Daily Devotional" and the "Friday greetings from Shepherd of the Prairie" better known as the "Friday Flourish" via e-mail. The "Friday Flourish" has been updated with links to Council Minutes and monthly financial statements plus the feedback link: "Dude!, How We Doin'?" Given that around 90% of SOTP members have e-mail addresses, this allows us to reach most of you on a regular basis. If you are not receiving the "Daily Devotional" and "Friday Flourish," let the church office know so that your current e-mail address can be added to the distribution list. For those of you without e-mail, Council Minutes and monthly statements are posted on the bulletin board in the Crossroads and the monthly Newsletter continues to be mailed to all members.

MEMBER SERVICES

This goal challenged us to start a Lay Home Communion process and add a new "all-church" gathering. The Lay Home Communion started in August and SOTP hosted the Peder Eide concert in September. More importantly for the future, we've established a Community Life Committee to facilitate all-church events.

HUMAN RESOURCES

This goal recognized that in order to accomplish other goals, staff and leadership are required. We have 5 new ministry chairs and, to better meet the needs of our expanding congregation, we added one new office staff position and expanded existing staff responsibilities. Because of our growth and expanding ministries, human resources continues to be a challenge and this is the focus of the Leadership Retreat on 8 Jan 2011.

SUNDAY MORNING

In August, Pastor Mark shared results of a leadership survey on the possibility of a 3rd Sunday service. Last fall a similar survey was electronically sent to SOTP members. There were 140 responses. These surveys failed to point to a clear-cut direction for a 3rd Sunday service. In the mean time, changes to the Sunday School program have helped alleviate seating capacity issues and we continue to address how best to provide spiritual and meaningful Sunday (and Saturday) worship experiences for SOTP members and guests.

In addition to our 2010 Goals, the council identified a longer range issue for STOP. Our below market mortgage rate of 3% is only good until October of 2015. At that time, SOTP is projected to have a loan balance well over \$1 Million AND be subject to market mortgage rates (likely to be in excess of twice the current rate). This projected increase in interest payments means a smaller portion of giving dollars will go to ministry. As good stewards, we should do what we can now to minimize the impacts of debt on our ministry. Thus the theme of our current stewardship campaign: Debt Reduction Leads to Mission Expansion. However, let me assure you that that our overall purpose remains to minister to both members and others in the community now and in the future: *“We care for God’s children of all ages by growing disciples who make disciples.”*

Respectfully submitted,
—*Larry Newbanks*
President, Congregational Council

2011 Ministry Reports

Youth & Family Ministries

LITTLE LAMBS

Little Lambs Parents Day Out (PDO) program ended last school year with great success. We completed our first year with an enrollment of 9 students. This year we have a total of 11 students attending Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9:00 am to noon. During that time, we enjoy circle time, calendar and weather activities, math/language lesson, a snack, Bible stories, crafts, music, and other fun activities. These education and developmental activities help children develop a love for Bible stories and the knowledge that God loves us.

Kristy Warnke and Jill Gillming are the two lead teachers. This is both their second year with the Little Lambs program. They spend many hours per week planning and adapting lessons for the children. It is all worth it when they see all of the children come to class with smiles on their faces.

In looking towards the future, Kristy and Jill would like to see the program grow with a two day a week program. This would be in addition to the one day per week class. In the two day program, the children will be introduced to phonics, a letter of the day, numbers, and basic fine motor skills.

We will be starting our enrollment for the 2011 – 2012 school year in early February. Children between the ages of 2 and 5 years old are accepted into our program. Enrollment is limited, so if you are interested or know of someone interested please contact Kristy Warnke at 847-669-3139 or gwarnke@sbcglobal.net.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Diana Reincke took over the role of Sunday School Superintendent in August 2010. Sunday School got off to a great start with over 100 preschool through 5th graders involved.

Two format changes occurred in the 2010-2011 school year. One, being that each church service offers the same Sunday School curriculum. Secondly, due to space concerns in the sanctuary, we needed to change the routine of the children receiving the children's message. Initially, we had the children start off in Sunday School, and be led into the sanctuary at such time for the message. This proved extremely difficult to transport the children, and have them get into the sanctuary at the correct time. As of 12/5/2010, we solved the problem as best we could by only having preschoolers in attendance for the Children's message. The preschool children begin service seated with their parents, and then are guided to Sunday School by their teacher after the Children's message is over. The kindergarten through 5th graders at that time began going to Sunday School for the entire hour, and remaining there.

We also experimented with a new curriculum in the Fall 2010-Faithweaver Friends. This was a station-based Sunday School where children rotated to 3 different stations each week. Due to the amount of children, lack of classroom space, and the curriculum being geared toward a broad age range, we decided to make a curriculum change in Winter 2010. We chose Faithweaver Sunday School Curriculum, which is a more traditional Sunday School geared toward different grade levels. As of winter 2010, the teachers are much enjoying the new curriculum, as well as the children.

Mission Ministries

GRAFTON FOOD PANTRY

Grafton Food Pantry - Each month the wonderful members of SOTP have been very generous in donating food for our Grafton Food Panty. Your generosity has helped to feed hundreds of familys this year. Also Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has made a generous donation to help pay for the Christmas turkeys given to the familys. Many of our members have also been donating time at the Pantry.

MISSION TEAM

The Mission Team was formed in January of this year out of a call to do “outward visioning” for mission involvements where Shepherd of the Prairie Congregation is not present, but can work to make a difference in God’s world: locally and globally. The following members currently serve on the committee:

Tammy Sabie	Sid Sorenson
Theresa Molgren	Jules Pelka
Corrine Neukirch	Mark Bidinger
Sandy Hupert	Gregory Gillming – <i>chairperson</i>

This team is focused on defining new opportunities for God's work in places where His work is needed and where we can serve. These opportunities can have positive impact locally and globally. We have several highlights during the year. We were tasked with matching three separate offerings from church events and designating their donations: \$1,760 (Peter Eide concert) went to the Grafton Township Food Pantry and Turning Point Women’s Shelter in Woodstock; \$1,600 (Thanksgiving loose plate offering) was sent to the Northern Illinois Food Bank; and, as of January, we were hoping to have raised \$2,500 from the loose plate Christmas offering. This money will be earmarked to dig a well in places where usable water is scarce. Generous Christmas officering are allowing SOTP to dig three wells! Additionally, SOTP now sells Fair Trade products on a quarterly basis. We facilitated the involvement of Huntley High School’s Basketball team to serve as bell ringers for the Salvation Army. New projects are in the works for 2011, including working with the Golden Diners local food delivery, a refugee support project through Exodus World Service, and others.

PRAIRIE CRAFTERS

The Prairie Crafters have held several sales besides the annual Spring sale and Christmas Bazaar this year. We have earned \$7,896.26. \$500.00 was given to the Home of the Sparrow and the rest (\$7,396.26) has been applied to the principle of the building fund.

The Crafters meet on the first Thursday morning of each month to work on projects. We would welcome any new crafters to join our group. Even if you have never made crafts before we are willing to teach you. If you are unable to attend our meetings, you can still participate by donating craft items made at home, baking things for the bake sales at the bazaars or helping to sell crafts and baked goods at the bazaar. We appreciate all the people who have supported us with their prayers, making. selling and buying our products.

This year our Spring sale will be before and after services the first and second week in April. The Christmas bazaar will be November 4, 5, and 6.

If you have any questions or would like to join our group, please contact Alice Hallett at 847-515-7556.

—*Alice Hallett*

PRAIRIE POINTS QUILTERS

This year we made 96 quilts. We sent 30 quilts to Haiti in February and another 65 quilts to Lutheran World Relief in November. We also donated a quilt to the holiday silent auction. Our group averages 12-14 people on our quilting days which are the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. Betty Zimmerman, Ann Lehman and Carol Roth share the leadership of the group. We are sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Come join us.

Fondly,
—*Carol Roth*

PRAYER MINISTRY

Pray without ceasing . . . I Thess. 5:17

Every Sunday, the published church announcements include two pages of prayer requests--prayers for healing and support, comfort, ministry and mission, discernment, peace, hope, rejoicing, and for persons in the Armed Forces. This list is updated each week. Everyone is encouraged to pray for our sisters and brothers wherever they are and whatever their needs.

During the week, new prayer requests and updates are sent by email to **45 members** of the **Prayer Ministry Team**. These prayers include private requests from those who do not want to be published. Fridays at 1:30, a small group meets for the **Shepherd's Prayer Hour**. At that time we pray for each person on the prayer list, lifting them up to God by name and need.

All are welcome to join the Prayer Ministry Team. No special talent is needed. You just need a few minutes a day to talk to God. He listens!

(To receive email updates, contact Theresa at treenruss@prodigy.net).

—*Ziggie Bekeris* (224-858-4956)
—*Theresa Molgren* (847-961-6876)

PRAYER SHAWLS

We are a group of 15 women who meet the second Thursday of each month to knit and crochet Prayer Shawls and Sweaters. Forty sweaters have been sent to World Vision who then sends them all over the world where they are needed. Over 100 Prayer Shawls have been given out this year.

We were thrilled to receive a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to help defray some of our expenses.

We love to have new members of our group. If you have any questions or would like to join our group please contact Alice Hallett at 847-515-7556.

—*Alice Hallett*

THRIVENT

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans continues to support Lutheran communities, schools and institutions through its fraternal branches. Shepherd of the Prairie belongs to McHenry-Kane County Chapter and received financial support for three operating missions of the Church: Prairie Quilters, Prayer Shawls and the Grafton Food Pantry. Thrivent Choice is a new program that replaces congregational matching funds. At Thrivent's annual banquet Dick Tabatt spoke of Thrivent's support with Habitat for Humanity. Alice Hallett and Carol Roth thanked Thrivent for its support with their respective ministries. Matthew Drafall is our congregation's Thrivent Financial advisor and Alice Hallett and Donna Sorensen are congregational advocates.

—*Donna Sorensen and Alice Hallett*

Worship Ministries

WORSHIP PLANNING

The purpose of the Worship Planning Team is to enhance all areas of the Worship experience by integrating other teams and committees. This past year, efforts were made to see how best to respond to overcrowding at the nine o'clock service and if a third service was advisable. A survey of church leaders and the congregation as a whole was taken. The results have not been construed as a "vote" but rather a means of getting input from all members. A goodly number of congregational responses were received and a meeting following up on those results was given between services on November 21.

The music ministry has expanded in a number of areas, for instance the bell and chime choirs, Mitch adding the role of Choir Director to his resume, and the soundboard operators schedule finally filling each of the four Sundays per month. (They can still use volunteers for the fifth Sundays and "subs" as needed.)

Bibles and hymnals have been donated to the church and the Sunday School schedule was revamped to better meet the needs of the worship services.

Audio and visual ministries are considered by the Worship Team, but will be detailed by that group in a separate report.

Overall, the Worship Team touches on many aspects of the church, but primarily as a coordinating body rather than a directing force.

—*Carl Hupert*
Chair

ALTAR GUILD

This has been another very busy year for the Altar Guild. Chair person, Amy Sharp resigned and took over the ministry of Wedding Coordinator. I, Darlene Soest resumed the position of Chair.

Some of our members have been unable to assist because of illness, however, we also have several new members. As Chair, I wish to Thank each and every member and volunteer for their faithfulness to this ministry and to those who have served so faithfully in the past.

Our members and volunteers maintain weekly schedules of responsibility that include set-up and take-down. Special Thanks to Carol Lilla, who has provided personalized Baptismal Napkins and Purificators and to Gretchen Lane who makes the individual Baptismal Banners. We have been so blessed with their beautiful sewing skills.

The Altar guild is also responsible for monthly laundering of all altar linens, pastoral robes and picking up all of the altar flowers that are ordered weekly. In addition, many assist in baking Communion Bread.

This past year Altar Guild has purchased new Altar Paraments in Green, Purple and Red. Chalices, Patens (for bread) and Patens for wafers, when needed) to replace the Blue Ceramic vessels used in the past. Also, new Altar Candle Followers (brass tops), a new Christ Candle with brass tops (one was donated anonymously) that will be used for baptisms. The older Christ Candle will be used during Advent. Thanks to Ferdie Kimminau who made new Altar Candle holders.

We look forward to another rewarding year in 2011 and invite all women, men, teens to take part in the wonderful ministry. There is no age limit required and training services will be provided.

Respectfully submitted,
—*Darlene Soest*
Altar Guild Chair

USHER

First of all I want to thank each and every one of those who volunteered to be ushers. Especially I want to thank the youth for doing the fifth Sundays. The first year has passed, we had to make some changes in our own building. I believe we made the adjustments, and have made more changes from time to time. And everything seems to be going smoothly.

Usher coordinator
—*Ferdie Kimminau*

AUDIO-VISUAL

This was a very busy and successful year for the growing Audio Visual ministry. It is expected that the Audio Visual ministry of SOTP will grow and need more funding and volunteers to join the Media Operators Group (MOG).

- Number of requests - We received more requests for event support and Worship presentation services than ever before in the history of the church in 2010.
- Backlog Reduction - We were able to establish coverage of both the audio board and visual support for most of the Sunday worship services by the end of 2010. We also supported several events such as the Christmas play presented by the youth ministry and also the Peder Eide concert.
- Use of exemptions- Adam Adams was able to secure two wireless headset microphones for worship presentation from Shure at no cost to SOTP.
- Administrative Appeals - At some point the church will need to consider hiring an A/V staff member to look after the A/V equipment and provide support for events at the church. This recommendation is largely based on the growing demands for high-tech communications for most active ministries at SOTP.
- Staffing Levels - This ministry is mostly run by volunteers aided by the input of staff members. There are presently 8 active members of the A/V Ministry, which is not quite enough to provide support for both audio and visual presentations offered at all SOTP worship services presently. Our goal is to double the number of active volunteer members.
- Costs - Through sponsors and aided by SOTP funds the A/V Ministry spent about \$15,000 on equipment in 2010. We estimate spending another \$10,000 in 2011 to upgrade our audio board and to secure a multimedia switcher for smoother delivery of worship presentation visuals, along with other equipment and cabling needs.
- Comparisons to previous years - this was a breakout year the Media Operators Group and the A/V Ministry. We are looking forward to carrying our momentum into 2011 and accomplishing even more.

—*Michael Yndestad*
acting Media Operator's Group (MOG) Chairman

MARRIAGE MINISTRY

The Marriage Ministry's purpose is to prepare couples for marriage, and to provide discovery/sharing opportunities along with support for already married couples.

Premarital: Administer the "Prepare Assessment" to couples as they approach their wedding, discuss results, pray and reflect on scripture with them to prepare them for their future lives together.

Number of couples served this year (premarital): 1

Planning: 2010 began the planning and build out the Marriage Ministry to couples that are already married. Year 2010 closed with the beginning of a monthly article in the Newsletter and preparation for running the Augsburg Fortress Lutheran Course on Marriage in 2011.

Thanks,

—*Rachael Yndestad*

FAITH CHEST MINISTRY

The FAITH CHEST MINISTRY provides a hand made personalized chest for each child baptized into faith at our Shepard of the Prairie Lutheran Church.

The FAITH CHEST is intended to be a place where documents, moments & keepsakes of ones journey to faith and adulthood can be stored.

The FAITH CHEST is presented by Pastor Mark immediately following the Baptismal Ceremony.

Over the past year the FAITH CHESTS have been hand crafted by Jim Mosley and Chris Trodahl.

If you have any questions about the FAITH CHEST, or would be interested in assisting in the building process, please feel free to contact Chris Trodahl at 815-893-0641

—*Chris Trodahl*

WORSHIP PARTICIPANT COORDINATOR

I am not sure if there is a title for what I have been doing for well over two years. My task is to make sure that there are the needed worship participants for all of our services. That means that 13 people each Sunday are willing to volunteer and serve as Assisting Minister, Reader, or Communion Steward. Each month, many telephone calls need to be made, and I am always so very grateful when I get a “Yes, I’ll be glad to serve” answer when I call.

Anyone who might be interested, please do let me know, I would be so happy to have you on my call-list. Training is provided. Remember, without you, we would not be able to conduct our worship services, so prayerfully consider this ministry if you are not doing so right now.

Peace!

—*Brigitte Pelka*

Music Ministries

I am still getting used to the fact that it is 2011. 2010 did not disappoint in terms of the changes and challenges that presented themselves. Kristy Warnke took leadership of the adult bell choir this past year. She is doing a great job, and I am thankful for her willingness to lead. I took leadership of the adult vocal choir. It has been fun working with the members of the choir. I am thankful for the joys and challenges of leading them. Many thanks for our former choir director Gretchen Lane, and our former adult bell director Carol Mosby for their service. They started and were the first leaders of these ministries. Thank you Gretchen and Carol for your service to the people of Shepherd of the Prairie.

There are many musicians who participate in leading worship at the 9:00 and 10:30 Sunday services, and the 5pm Saturday service. Thank you for offering your gifts and for your support. It is appreciated.

The children's music ministry continues to thrive. Thank you to the ladies who lead this ministry. Their dedication is awesome! I enjoyed working on the children's Christmas program with this group.

This year we started using the visual screen during worship. We also have a mounted camera and microphones to display our worship services to other parts of the building. Thank you to Mike Yndestad and everyone on the AV team. I love working with this ministry to fill the needs and expectations of our congregation. It is not an easy job, but we have great people involved in this ministry. Thank you.

2010 was the first year we had three Christmas Eve services. I personally felt it was the best Christmas Eve at our church to date.

What will happen in 2011? I'm sure there will be more changes, more growth, and new challenges. It will be my 10th year with Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church. I look forward to the New Year.

Peace,

—*Mitch Corso*

ADULT MUSIC MINISTRY

Prairie Ringers, the adult handbell choir, started the 2010 year under the direction of Carol Mosby, with 12 ringers and several willing substitutes.

On Feb. 6, 2010, we held a Trivia Night fund raiser. We raised enough funds to purchase an additional upper octave (C# 7 - C8) of bells, and make donations to several local charities!

In May, Carol resigned. We are very thankful that she started the chime/bell program at SOTP! Thanks to Carol & Jim's foresight, we're on our way to having a large and wonderful chime/handbell program to help lead our worship services at SOTP.

Kristy Warnke took over the Prairie Ringers in June, 2010. We are participating in the 9:00 am service once a month and, also, either a 5:00 pm or 10:30 am service once a month. We will participate in the 7:00 & 11:00 pm Christmas Eve services. There are currently 9 ringers in the choir and 5 willing subs that we call on regularly!

We are looking for a couple more people who would like to ring in our choir on a regular basis. We rehearse on Thurs. evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Call Kristy if you'd like to learn how to ring praises to God!

—*Kristy Warnke*
Director
847-669-3139
gwarnke@sbcglobal.net

CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY

The Children's Music Ministry was formed in January of 2010. We held our first rehearsal on January 5th, and on Sunday, January 31st all choirs offered their musical gifts for the first time. Being the Season of Epiphany, where we celebrate Jesus as the light of the world, all choirs sang or rang variations of the old spiritual "This Little Light of Mine". It was such a joy to see how the children's gifts blessed the congregation.

Currently we have five choirs consisting of :

- Cherub Choir (3-5 yrs.)..... 18
- Blessings Choir (6-12 yrs.) 20
- Joy Ringers-Chimes (7-10 yrs.) 8
- Jubilate Ringers *
- Handbells (8-11 yrs.) 12
- Spirit Ringers (11-High school)..... 11

**(Jubilate Ringers began in September of 2010)*

All Choirs sang or rang on the second and fourth Sunday's of each month, at alternating services. We also were able to offer music for a few of the Saturday night services.

The Children also participated in leading the Palm Sunday service, beginning with a free ring, and kicked off their season in September, by offering two African songs: "Ni Me Mwana Bwana" (We Have Seen The Lord) and "Siyahamba" (We Are Marching In The Light of God) highlighting the Hefer Project. In November the Spirit Ringers led the Thanksgiving Eve Worship service.

All children of the congregation were invited to audition for the Children's Christmas Musical "Twinkle and the Manger" in September. Rehearsals started the first Sunday in October and ran weekly until the musical. We had 46 children participate in the Children's musical, as well as the Spirit Ringers who provided the accompaniment. We also invited all of the children currently enrolled in our Sunday school program to participate. The musical was presented at 5 p.m. worship on Saturday, December 11th and again on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 12th at 2 p.m. Both were very well attended. All choirs also participated in the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

It has truly been a joy to lead and educate a wonderful group of children in sharing the love and light of Jesus thru music.

Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God Alone Be The Glory)

Respectfully Submitted,
—**Annette Boster**,
Director, Cherub and Blessings Choir
—**Sandy Martin**
Assistant
—**Jeni McCann**
Accompanist
—**Jane McMullen**
Director, Handbells and Chimes
—**Renae Greene**
Communication/Administration

Fellowship Ministries

FUN FOR ALL AGES (FFAA)

Our Fun For All Ages committee just got organized this fall and we are mainly responsible for social activities in the church. Activities might include Christian concerts, Piefest, Lutherdale family retreat, soup suppers during Lent and the annual church picnic. There may also be game/trivia nights-TBA.

—*Sharon Little*
Chairman

HELPING HANDS/FUNERAL MEAL

Helping Hands is a ministry of care. Our goal is to prepare and deliver meals to congregation members who are experiencing a family crisis or, to a family with a new baby who are in need of a warm meal during this joyful but hectic time. In addition we have organized, prepared and served several funeral luncheons for congregation members and their families.

This ministry is constantly changing and growing in both its members and in how we provide help to those in need. We encourage new members to join this ministry and share their ideas and talents with us. Together we can help someone in need feel the concern and care that we are called to share with each other. This ministry blesses its members as much as, or perhaps more than, it blesses those who receive a warm meal. We'd love for you to join us in adding more hands to Helping Hands. Thanks to all who serve.

Respectfully submitted by:
—*Carol Lilla*

CARING CARD

Helen Berry & Elaine Neukirch report that the Caring Card Ministry sends WELCOME cards to all new members & their families after joining SOTP.

Throughout the year congratulation cards are also sent to those who are baptized, those students who graduate and those students who are confirmed.

Last year we also started sending holiday cards to the servicemen & women on our Prayers for Persons in the Armed Services list. This year we made a poster of photos of some of the servicemen & women from our congregation which stands in the crossroads.

—*Helen Berry & Elaine Neukirch*

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

We started the men's breakfast group January of 2010 we went to different restaurants. Then chose to go to the Pine Crest Golf Club. We have had several men come and join us, some come once, some several times and others almost every month. we have always had a good time of fellowship. It is open to all men of the congregation. If you would like to come and are unable to drive or do not want to drive, let me know and I will or make arrangements to have someone else pick you up. We are now meeting at the Country Cafe on Route 20 just off of Harmony Road. As the Pine Crest is closed on Wednesdays for the winter. Hope to see you there.

—*Ferdie Kimminau*

OUTREACH/WELCOME

The current Outreach Team began meeting in July. We are very excited about the opening of the new WELCOME CENTER located in the “Crossroads” on Rally Day, September 12. We hope you have noticed the welcoming banner above the church office window. At this location, after each service, we welcome visitors to our church and present them with a gift and information on all the activities that we offer in the church. We refer to this as the “Mugging Ministry” because each family receives a mug filled with hugs and kisses. On October 10, 25% of the people mugged became members of the SOTP church family.

The Outreach Team wanted to share the warmth and love of the Christmas season with everyone attending the Christmas Eve services. Each person received a keepsake bookmark showing a shepherd eagerly traveling to worship the Christ Child. We also think of the shepherds as they returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen.

The main purpose of the Outreach Team is to invite people looking for a church home to worship at SOTP. We are busy making plans for the SOTP booth at the Huntley Expo in February. Also, please look for pictures in the local newspapers featuring events of fellowship as we reach out to our community. Each of you is a very important member of the Outreach Team. We would like to say “*Thank You*”- for eagerly sharing your love for Jesus. You are awesome!

Respectfully submitted,
—*Barb Hoch*

PRAIRIE CONNECTION:

In June 2010, Steve & Lori Conway hosted a prairie connection get together at their home. We grilled out and caught up on how everyone was doing while the kids played together. Prairie Connection participants and their families met for a Kane County Cougars baseball game in July. This event was coordinated by Nick and Kara Parry. Although it was a hot day, we had a great time! In August, Prairie Connection coordinated the annual church picnic. This year, the picnic was moved to the church due to poor weather conditions. Despite the weather, there was still plenty of food, fun and fellowship among the participants. Thank you to everyone who coordinated, hosted and/or participated in a Prairie Connection event this year. In addition, we want to thank everyone for their assistance with the church picnic. With everyone’s help, it was a success!

Prairie Connection events for 2011 will be scheduled on a quarterly basis. We are anticipating another Kane County Cougars baseball game this summer along with other activities throughout the year. If anyone is interested in hosting and/or coordinating an event, please feel free to contact us at anytime.

We look forward to 2011!

Coordinators for Prairie Connection:
—*Nick & Kara Parry*
—*Nicholas & Sarah Wolf*

PRAIRIE GUIDES

This is a unique ministry at SOTP. We do not have meetings and there is no committee. The Prairie Guides ministry is a group of members who have indicated that would like to serve as mentor/friends to new members of SOTP, beginning the Sunday after the New Members’ Orientation. Each Guide is expected to attend a get-together to meet his/her assigned New Member(s) and then greet and attend church service with the New Member(s) for about four church services. The Guide is also expected to introduce the New Member(s) to others in the congregation and to answer any questions that may arise. As Coordinator of the Prairie Guides ministry, I recruit new Guides, attend the Orientation Meeting and talk about the Prairie Guides Program, match up Guides and New Members, and fill out a summary of the information sheets the New Members fill out at the Orientation. I also plan and attend the get-together on the Sunday morning New Members are accepted into the Church. This is when the Prairie Guides and New Members meet each other. In 2010 we accepted new member in January, April, August, and October, and we had a Prairie Guide for each New Member.

We are always looking for new Prairie Guides, so if you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact me. I am taking this opportunity to publicly thank Carol Roth for her service as Co-Chairperson of this ministry. Carol resigned from the position this year, so we are looking for a volunteer to accept the position of Co-Chairperson. She has been the “heart” of this ministry and I miss her help very much. If you are interested in a co-chair position of Prairie Guides, please contact me or Patty Driscoll-Shaw.

—*Joan Marett*,
Prairie Guides Coordinator

PHOTOGRAPHY

The photography ministry was officially initiated this year as a way to document and publish on SOTPs’ web site, the activities and ministries at SOTP. Currently, Chuck Little has been asked to head up this ministry.

There is a digital camera in the church office that can be used to take pictures of ministry meetings and events at the church or you can call Chuck to have someone take pictures at a special ministry event.

Because of the numerous activities, it is impossible for one person to be on call for all of them. Anyone that has an interest in photography and can assist Chuck in taking photos of SOTP events should call him at 847-961-6172 or email him at chuck@nttt.biz

Future activities of this ministry include archiving photos for each year of SOTPs’ history on a DVD and making a DVD to promote SOTP to the Huntley area showing its’ many ministries.

SENIOR SHEPHERDS

The Senior Shepherds group is for all seniors at Shepard of the Prairie. We try to do things several times during the year that we hope will be of interest to many of you. It is a nice way to meet other church members. We enjoy good Christian Fellowship and quite often very good food.

This year we did the following:

- March A make your own Ice Cream Sundae and Game Night at Church.
- April Dinner at Cafe 20 in Marengo followed by a show at the American Legion.
- July A luncheon cruise on Lake Geneva.
- Sept. A pot luck dinner and Game Night at Church.
- Oct. We took a guided tour of the Hindu Mandir in Bartlett followed by lunch at a local Restaurant.
- Nov. A trip to the Fireside in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin for dinner and show "The Child"
- Dec. We attended the Christmas Concert at the Orchard Evangelical Free Church in Arlington Heights.

We hope more of you will join us for our planned activities in the future. If you do not drive, come anyway as we always have transportation.

—*Bob and Betty Zimmerman*

SPARK PLUGS

The purpose of the Sparkplugs is to experience Christian fellowship and service in a small group with an interest in classic cars, sports cars and auto racing.

For 2010, the Sparkplugs were involved in the following congregational events:

- Participated in the January Ministry Fair
- In March, the Sparkplugs presented the “Driving Zone – Essential Techniques for New and Experienced Drivers.” The program featured a video, made possible by the Dale Earnhardt Foundation, which offered valuable lessons to help reduce accidents and save lives. The youth group attended the session along with other members of SOTP.

- An air pressure and tire tread check was offered on a Sunday in May after both services. Several members had their tires inspected with the youth group serving as the “pit crew.”
- In June, after the second service and a light lunch, Katie Torkelson conducted a fun and informative “how-to” workshop on “Car Basics for Women” which included a look at what goes on under the hood.
- “Cool Car Capers” was held in August and SOTP members were invited to bring their favorite car for a “show and tell.” Mark Fren dreis’ 1960s trophy Corvette was featured.

If you have an interest in cars and would like more information on Sparkplugs, please contact Bob Malm at (847)695-0368.

Respectfully submitted,
—**Bob & Carol Malm**

WELCA

All women who attend SOTP are Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Women consistently say how much they value the friendship, fellowship, and support they experience by being part of a community of women of faith.

WELCA includes two bible study circles that use lessons from Lutheran Woman Today Magazine, a book chat group and a Monday evening Friends Bible study among other interest groups.

The previous board of Gail Barnard, President, Betty Knawa, V.P. / Secretary, and Ziggy Bekeris held a Spring retreat in March with the theme fellowship. In May they held Cinco De Mayo. The 2010-2011 election of officers was held. June installation of officers was held. Donna Sorensen and Carlee Patelle co-chairs, Nancy Zunker, Sec, Stevie Massei, Treasurer.

June, July & Aug. circle bible studies were held together. The theme was "Prayer". The collection of dues totaled \$350.00 and was donated to LWR for malarial nets. Several women the Prayer Labyrinth at Grace Lutheran church in Woodstock which culminated the study.

The Sept. general meeting program was God Colors Outside the Lines. The Quilter & Prayer Shawl ministries demonstrated their works. An umbrella of many colors was created to signify the many branches that are supported by WELCA.

October brought a "Gal's Night Out" introducing the Bold Cafe web site. A chocolate fountain was enjoyed along with a hand spa and a movie.

Nov. 20 & 21 were the Thankoffering services. A collection from the boxes of \$880.82 will be sent to WELCA.

A "Colors of Christmas Tea" was held with 80 women in attendance. An estimated \$750 - \$800 worth of donations of clothing and personal items was collected for PADS. In addition, a donation of \$167.00 was made to SOTP Good Samaritan Fund.

—**The WELCA Board**

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP

After so many years of faithful leadership and accepting total responsibility for organizing weekly Fellowship for the Congregation, Kim Frendreis can now involve herself in other ministries which entice her. We give thanks to her and for her!

We also want to share our appreciation with Kim's family, and Ralph and Susie Wehnes who helped in ongoing ways with coffee prep, cleaning, and general overseeing of our kitchen.

On November 1st, 2010, an invitation went to all the ministry groups to take a turn each quarter with a two-fold purpose: 1) serve the community coffee and treats, and 2) recruit and/or educate how your group serves our God through service to others. The response has been heartening both from Ministry Groups and from individuals forming themselves into a small group just to participate in care for our congregation in this way.

Carol Lilla and Kathy Pizarro offered themselves to organize the process and scheduling for the groups. As of January 2nd, 2011 their creativity and expertise began to be put into practice. I am so very grateful to them for taking this ongoing responsibility = = a ministry in itself.

And... Mary Conti has generously offered to be the Kitchen Care Coordinator. She is the "go to" person participating with the Congregation in caring for our beautiful kitchen and acquiring needed supplies. While groups, as well as individuals are entering into Fellowship Ministry, Mary will be the person to contact as there are questions or needs related to the kitchen. We all breathe easier knowing Mary's gifts to care for our kitchen.

Thanksgiving is ours for each of the people mentioned above!

—*Patty Driscoll-Shaw*
Lay Ministry Coordinator

Property Ministries

BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The property committee has had a tremendous amount of work since moving into the new building. Although it's a new building, we do have many different areas to watch over inside of the building and outside of the building. Our biggest project has been the care of the prairie. We are very fortunate to have members of the church that have done their research on the prairie as well as Hey & Associates to help us maintain the prairie. The reason the prairie is such a big part of the church is because how we maintain the prairie tells the community how we feel about our church. Since the building itself is a year old we have had a couple of other tasks to take care on the exterior but nothing major.

On the interior of the church we have made a couple of minor changes like lighting for the musicians and TV's in some of the classrooms. One of our issues inside of the church is storage. As a church, we need to make sure any items that we are storing are going to be used more often than not. As the property committee we do go through the storage closets and donate items that are not being used. Now I will assure you we do not go and donate things without asking but it would be helpful if any one storing items would consider how often an item will be used before storing it.

The property committee currently has about 15-20 talented members that help maintain the church and we are always looking for help from any members of the church that are familiar with interior or exterior maintenance. If you join us this does not mean we would call you constantly looking for help; we would call you only if we had a problem in your area of expertise. This could range from being able to change a light bulb to working on door hardware to being able to change furnace filters. So if there are any members that would like to join this ministry, please free to contact any member on the committee at any time.

In the Spring, two weeks before Easter, we are planning on cleaning the entire church. Once we get closer to this time, we will have a sign up sheet and we hope to have a good turn out so that our church can remain in the state it is in. As good stewards to the building, the property, and the community it is important that we keep this a mind. The church and the community needs us, so that our building can continue to support ministry to our members and the community.

Respectively submitted,
—*Jeff Kolcz*

GREEN THUMB

The Green Thumb Committee is finished for the year. The planters in front are set for the winter season. The prairie garden will be dormant until spring. We have seeded and have had it cut down and with Gods help should flourish in the spring for all to enjoy. We will start up again in the spring and attend to the gardening need, and maybe add a few things.

Thank you,
—*Donna Schnepff*

Administrative Support Ministries

MINISTRY DATA COORDINATOR

As Ministry Data Coordinator, I maintain the Time and Talent Sheets and responsible for contacting individuals who are willing to service on the many ministries within our congregation. As Coordinator, I attend Pastor's Orientation Meetings with perspective new members and give a short explanation of the use of the Time and Talent Sheet and the importance of utilizing one's talent for the various ministries available.

This past year, the Time and Talent Sheet has been revised and now currently updated. The Ministry Description Booklet is also in the process of revision. This booklet, is not only given to new members, but will also be given to our current members in order to update everyone of the changes that have taken place.

In the meantime, if anyone has questions and needs to know who to contact for any of the ministries, you may call me or our Lay Ministry Director, Patty Driscoll-Shaw

Respectfully submitted,
—*Darlene A. Soest*

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY MINISTRY

Communication within the congregation is facilitated by volunteers who serve God consistently on the last Friday of the month. We meet at the church to assemble the SOTP Newsletter and get it ready for mailing to members of the congregation. The session lasts for about an hour starting at 9 a.m. The Newsletter arrives in mailboxes at the beginning of the month. Containing news of the month's church activities and other information, our newsletter enhances fellowship with the members of SOTP. The Ministry Leader is Helen Fenzan.

Usually on the last Friday of the month, volunteers meet at the church to assemble the SOTP Newsletter and get it ready for mailing to members of the congregation. The session lasts for about an hour starting at 9 a.m. The Newsletter arrives in mailboxes at the beginning of the month. It contains news of the month's church activities and other information to enhance your fellowship with other members of SOTP. Please call Helen Fenzan (at 847-961-6591) for scheduling service to God as a volunteer for this needed endeavor.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

This committee is responsible for recording and acknowledging all special gifts and memorials received by the church during the year. In year 2010 the church received memorials for the building fund for a total of \$2,585.00 in memory of the following members and friends of the congregation:

Dan Mesenbrink	Ina Auwerda
Carl Lilla	Joshua Carlson
Don Schnake	Mary Jane Nelson
Sherry Nay	Richard Wood
Herbert A. Phillips	Peg McMahan
Janet Riech	Elsie Yearman

Gifts received:

Area rug for the teen room – Steve & Carol Legel
Additional bell choir needs - Jeff Katie Meissner
Lutheran Hymnals – Marian Mesenbrink
Outdoor plantings – Mel & Lois Long
Bibles – for the sanctuary, teens and children – anonymous
Video installation for televisions throughout the building – Doreen Dwyer
Sound board, flat screen televisions and video game system.

We also receive monetary gifts to honor or celebrate special occasions for our members. These gifts can be designated for the building fund or special needs of the church or the organizations.

We are grateful for all the memorials and gifts that are received.

—*Ted Anderson, Helen Fenzan and Susan Wehnes*

Congregation Support Ministries

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Members of this years nominating team included, Jim Auwerda, Pastor Mark Boster, Kathy Dahl, Walter Roth, Mike Kasal, Bob McDuffee, Jennifer Trevino. Members met to discuss and discern possible nominees to fill terms as dictated by our church constitution. Jim Rice was appointed by the church council in November to fill Kris Fleener's vacated council position. His name is placed in nomination to fulfill the 1 year remaining on this council position.

- Synod convention representative: Marlene Boehler and Brian Bremer
- Nominating Committee: Donna Sorenson, Greg Gillming, John Arneson (One Year Term)
- Audit Team: Dennis Minutello (Three Year Term)
- Congregation Council: Theresa Molgren, Bob McDuffee, Mike McCann (Three Year Term)
- Council Member filling vacated Term: Jim Rice (One Year Term)

MUTUAL MINISTRY

Mutual Ministry is a small group of people who meet monthly with the pastor to provide a safe and confidential environment for him to share new ideas, blessings and concerns he may have about his ministry at SOTP. This group also supports the pastor by making sure he has good work and family balance, he takes his vacation, is attending continuing education opportunities, has meaningful goals each year and we administer his yearly performance evaluation. This group is also available to the congregation for feedback or concerns specifically about the pastor or his ministry.

The Mutual Ministry team met as a group for the first time in June of this year and meets monthly. The team members are Rebecca Fulcer (Council Liaison), Mike Hoch, Grant Jahr, Jessica Panella (Char person) and Sarah Wolf. This year the Mutual Ministry team conducted a performance evaluation for Pastor Mark using an electronic survey form sent to the staff and approximately 30 congregational families. They were asked various questions to provide input into his performance review but also to use as input to his goals for the coming year.

If there are any questions about this group please contact one of the representatives or Pastor Mark.

Prayerfully submitted,

—*Jessica Panella*

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee sponsored two workshops led by Pastor Ron Voss. Seventy people attended the sessions. Then we had four temple talks by Jack & Mary Conti, Gerald Warnke, Devin Burg, & Ralph Wehnes leading up to Commitment Weekend, November 13th & 14th. Pastor Ron Voss was our guest speaker for these services. A green "Debt Reduction Leads to Mission Expansion" envelope was introduced to help reduce our building & land principal. They will be available for "extra" contributions to be applied to the loan principal that will save us \$.70 for each \$1.00 contributed. We also set goals for 2011 general fund pledges at \$415,000.00 and building fund pledges at \$270,000.00. By December 15th we had received for the general fund 199 pledges for \$407,027.00 and for the building fund 181 pledges for \$260,683.00. Thanks to all who were able to pledge. Several workshops are being planned for 2011. Thrivent Financial will help with these workshops. We also will be providing more financial information in the newsletter and visuals at Church with regard to our loan balance projected pay off date and pledge results.

Also, I want to thank the members that volunteered to be offering contribution counters. They spend 2-3 hours each week to make sure our contributions are counted and distributed to the proper accounts.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Ralph Wehnes*

Stewardship Chairman

HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM

The Human Resources Team had an eventful and effective 2010. We assisted changes in the office by the hiring of Renae Green as Office Manager allowing Dennis Lilla more time and opportunity to work in the electronic media for the benefit of Shepherd of the Prairie Church, its staff and members. We were also involved in reviewing the progress, achievements and future of Greg Dowell's ministry. Seeing the growing demands for his time and attention to the ministry, we developed and presented a proposal to increase his hours to full time, which the council approved and adopted. We were also involved in the need for more service from the music ministry in the position of a choir director.

After reviewing the position, candidates and fiscal impact, we presented the opportunity to increase Mitch Corso to full time hours to accommodate the need in that position.

Currently, we are reviewing and working on another addition to the staff at the request of Pastor Mark in the leading of a Spiritual Ministry. That position to be filled in 2011.

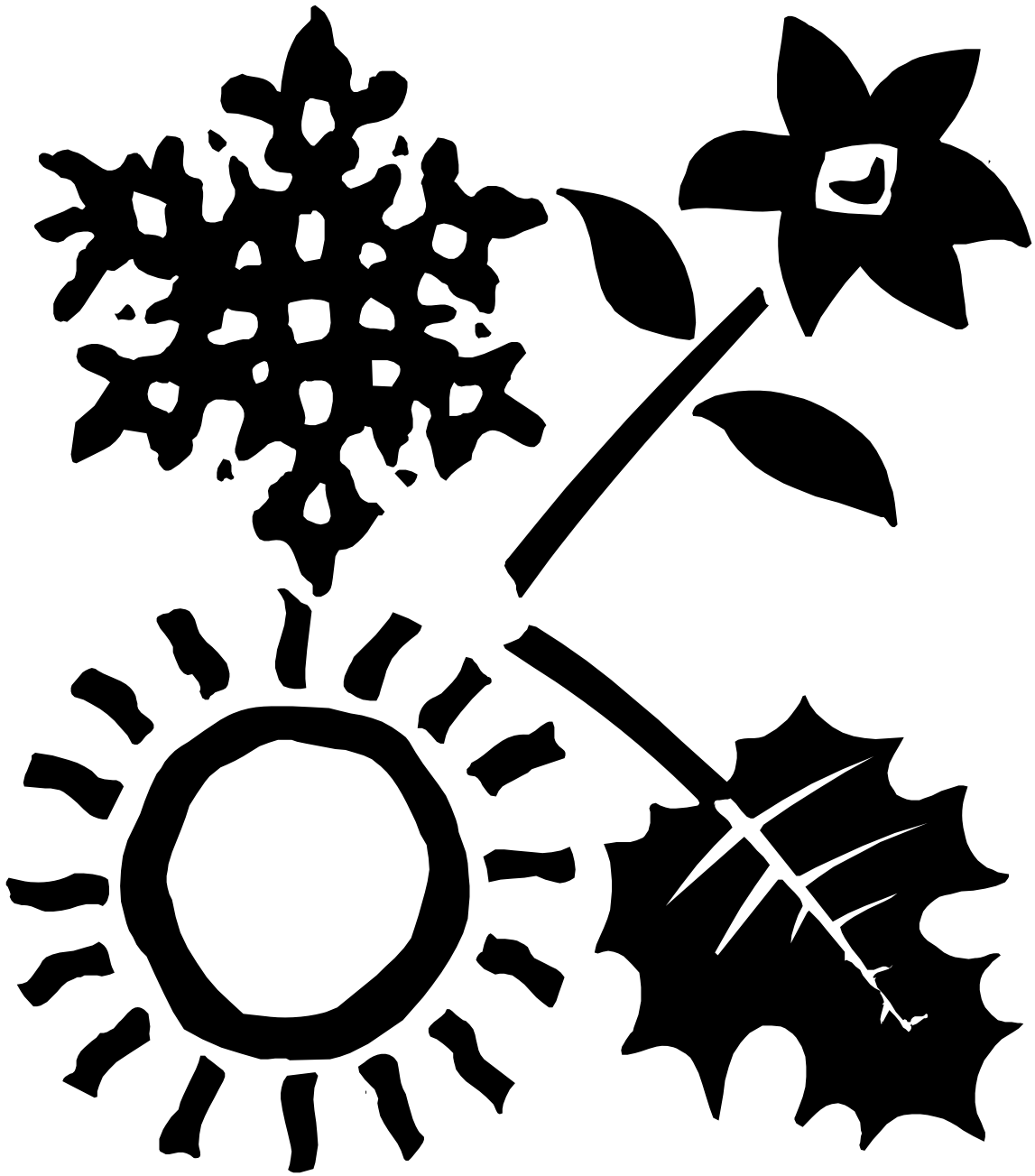
Sincerely
—*John Boehler*
Co-chair Human Resources Committee.

2011 Budget

SOTP Budget 2011	Budget 2011	Actual 2010
Pledge contributions	420000	298167.08
Un-Pledged contributions	27500	88173.51
Misc. Contributions	27500	32504.36
Flowers	3000	2130.00
Interest income	1000	1053.02
Total Income	479000	422027.97
Mission Ministry (Mission Support)		
ELCA NI synod 11%	52250	47925.00
Local mission 1%	4640	4428.53
Good Samaritan	750	627.30
	57640	52980.83
Outreach Ministry		
Outreach/Evangelism	7000	6000.90
Advertising	8000	7548.68
Misc. Outreach expenses	1000	1022.10
	16000	14571.68
Christian Education Ministry		
Adult Discipleship	3000	774.18
Confirmation	1125	2257.70
Sunday school	3500	2811.38
VBS	3000	3184.50
Small group ministries	400	0.00
Retreats	1000	0.00
Misc. Christian Ed.		84.98
	12025	9112.74
Youth Ministry		
HSYG (DUIJ)	2500	2528.21
The Well (Kool Christians Kids)	1500	1965.99
Youth (K-5)	600	11.50
Retreats	1250	142.55
Misc. Youth expenses	0	456.71
	5850	5104.96
Music Ministry		
1st Service music	250	170.99
2nd Service music	250	35.70
Adult bell Choir	1000	882.30
Childrens Music Ministry	1000	576.68
Adult Choir	500	38.44
Piano Miantenance	500	0.00
Bell maintenance	250	0.00
Licensing fees	1250	942.90
Misc. Music expenses	1500	1932.56
	6500	4579.57
Worship Ministry		
Flowers	3000	3261.35
Altar guild	1500	1134.01
AV ministry	1500	0.00
Pastoral assistance	1000	800.00
Worship supplies	750	814.80
Misc. Worship expenses		1328.07
	7750	7338.23

2011 Budget (cont)

SOTP Budget 2011	Budget 2011	Actual 2010
Facilities		
Cleaning service	9000	8475.16
Utilities	14300	11034.58
Waste removal	1000	1031.51
Insurance	5900	4845.00
Lawncare/snow removal	5000	9685.00
Maintenance/Cleaning supplies	1250	0.00
Fire system monitoring	1500	1596.00
Misc Facilities expenses	1050	9010.92
	39000	45678.17
Office expenses		
Office supplies	8000	7009.66
Office equipment	750	912.60
Web/software expenses	750	599.02
Postage	1750	1360.47
Dues & subscriptions	1000	1282.66
Equipment rental	8000	8047.00
Misc. Office expenses	500	727.72
	20750	19939.13
Staffing Ministry		
Pastor salary	47075	42829.96
Pastor Housing allowance	32000	32000.00
Lay Ministry Coor.	16068	15600.00
Youth Ministry Coor.	34278	24933.38
Director of Music	39388	30963.36
Tech Support Manager	24627	23910.03
Office manager	8034	6790.00
Staffing for growth	25000	0.00
Staff training.Con't ed	5000	3909.28
Social security	11365	7432.51
Pastor health insurance & S.S.	42000	38929.40
Misc staff expenses	2000	1795.11
	286835	229093.03
Other Church expenses		
Scholarships	1200	1010.00
Committee expenses	3000	1862.82
Automobile expenses	3000	3174.57
Human resources	2500	3377.00
Bank/Legal expenses	300	286.20
Misc expenses	1650	3621.68
	11650	13332.27
Providing for the future		
Provision for Outreach programs	2000	2500.00
Provision for Inreach programs	2000	2500.00
Provision for Equipment	2000	2500.00
Provision for Maintenance	4500	2500.00
Provision for Bldg. & Grounds	4500	2500.00
	15000	12500.00
	479000	414230.61
Net Income	0	7797.36



ANNUAL
MEETING
