



Shepherd
OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Report

January 26, 2014

*“Caring for God’s Children of all ages, by growing disciples
who make disciples.”*

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

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Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Annual Meeting

January 26, 2014

I. Call to Order

II. Quorum Call

III. Opening Prayer

IV. Looking Back

1. Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2013
2. Approval of Committee and Ministry Reports
3. Approval of 2013 Financial Reports
4. Recognition of Outgoing Council Member

Theresa Molgren

V. Celebration of Ministry - Video

VI. Looking Ahead

1. Purpose Statement, Guiding Principles and Strategic Directions
2. Staffing Introductions
3. January 20 Leadership Retreat Update

VII. Elections

1. Election of Audit Team Member
2. Election of 2014 Nominating Team
3. Election of Voting Members to the Northern IL Synod Assembly
4. Election of New Council Members

VIII. Approval of 2014 Budget

IX. Closing Prayer

X. Adjournment

Shepherd of the Prairie Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2014

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Annual Meeting

January 26, 2014

Called to order – 11:55 AM

- Quorum required is 123. In attendance: 124
- Teller – Mark Frendreis, Chris Trodahl
- Parliamentarian – Jessica Panella

Opening Prayer —Pastor Mark

Looking Back

A motion to approve minutes from 2013 annual meeting was made by Chris Trodahl, 2nd by Ferdie Kimminau.

Committee and Ministry Reports

Motion to accept the reports was made by Kathy Pizarro, 2nd - Chuck Peterson

Chris Trodahl made comment to ensure reports reflected recent changes in the Prayer Shawl Ministry Report.

Voted on and approved.

2013 Financial Reports

Financial update provided by Devin Burg.

Building Fund

- We started 2013 with a loan balance of \$1,177,696.35, and ended the year with a balance of \$921,896.32.
- We were able to reduce the principal of our loan by \$255,800.03.
- We made additional principal payments at the end of every quarter in 2013 while maintaining a minimum of 3 full monthly payments in reserve.
- We are well on our way to paying this loan off completely. However, we also may need to start looking at expansion plans before that.

General Fund

- Balance Sheet: We ended 2013 in a strong cash position. We have \$50,898.66 in unrestricted cash, \$56,380.16 in Dedicated Funds, and \$59,526.24 in our Reserve Accounts.
- We finished 2013 with operating income exceeding operating expenses by \$9,122.93. We applied this surplus to our provisional accounts which are dedicated reserves for unexpected expenses. After accounting for the designation of the provisional accounts, our 2013 reflects a balanced budget.
- The Income statement shows \$484,903.95 which reflects a decrease in total income compared to \$492,641 collected 2012. However, the finance team made a change in how we manage prepaid pledges in 2013 that impacts this number. In the past, prepaid pledges were counted as income in

the year it was received. In 2012, SOTP received approximately \$11,000 in prepaid gifts for the 2013 general fund. This would have pushed our total 2013 general fund income closer to \$495,904 which means we actually saw a slight increase in giving. Going forward, prepaid pledges will be held as a liability on the balance sheet for the year end reports, and then moved to income in the year it was intended.

- Expenses for the year were under budget. The primary cause for this was the absence of a Lay Ministry Coordinator for most of the year.
- You may notice there are several individual categories that may have ended the year well under budget, and others that were well over budget. Most of this is due to the challenges we experienced this year with the transition of our office manager position. We continued to work on procedures to improve the accuracy of placing expenses in the proper categories.
- The one expense category where we truly went over budget was the Music Ministry. Early in the year, the finance team was approached with a proposal to increase spending for the music ministry. Knowing we were under budget due to the transition in the Lay Ministry Coordinator Position, the team believed we could support this request. The finance team recommended to the council that we could financially support the increase. However, we also indicated that if we needed to reduce spending, this would be the first area we would cut. That was not necessary, and we were able to support the spending increase for the year.
- The finance team and the council believe this is a supportable budget with sufficient contingencies available if giving doesn't reach our goal.

Motion to approve the 2013 financial reports by Tom Polzin, 2nd by Sandy Hupert. Motion voted on and approved.

Outgoing council member recognized

- Theresa Molgren

Looking Ahead

- Reminder of our mission statement.
- Review of 4 Strategic Directions developed by Strategic Direction Team:
 - *Be a catalyst for creating community partnerships that care for people in need.*
 - *Promote the wellbeing of area children, youth and young adults through identification and facilitation of community programming.*
 - *Invite people into life-giving participation in the community of faith.*
 - *Encourage spiritual growth that changes lives and raises up leader for the church and for the world.*
- Staff members asked to stand and be recognized.
- Mission Team Video highlighting 2013 highlights.

January 20 Leadership Retreat Update

Highlights of Leadership to be shared in February or March via Temple Talks and other means of communication.

Election of Audit Team Member

- Jim Rice

Motion to elect Jim Rice as Audit Team member by Jim Henley, 2nd by Kris Fleener. Motion voted on and approved.

Election of 2014 Nominating Team

- Theresa Molgren, Don Koerner, Carol Waxenberg, Ron Mudge, Pam Fender
Motion to approve Theresa, Don, Carol, Ron and Pam as the 2014 Nominating Team by Bob Malm, 2nd by Alice Hallett. Motion voted on and approved.

Election of Voting Members to the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly

- Judie Symbal and Nick Wolf
Motion to approve Judy and Nick as Voting Members to the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly by Carl Hupert, 2nd by Mike Yndestad. Motion voted on and approved.

Election of New Council Members

- Bob McDuffee, Mike McCann, Jim Henley
Motion to approve Bob, Mike and Jim as Council Members by Noreta Walker, 2nd by Sandy Hupert .
Motion voted on and approved.
Kathy McGuine conducted vote.

2014 Budget Highlights

Devin Burg provided 2014 budget comments and summary.

- The 2014 budget has been reviewed and approved by the Finance Team and the Council.
- The 2014 budget is flat compared to 2013.
- Even though we finished 2013 with a small increase in operating income, and our 2014 pledges are strong, we believe that we need to keep our total budget flat.
- With the realigning of some expenses, we are able to propose a flat budget, and still provide a 3% increase in staff salaries. No increase was proposed for the Lay Ministry Coordinator, or the AV Coordinator position. Typically, employees must be employed in a position for close to 1 year before they are considered for a pay increase.

A motion to approve the 2014 budget made by Walter Roth, 2nd by Kris Fleener. Voted on and approved.

Comments from the floor:

- Kris Fleener inquired regarding sufficient budgeting for snow removal. Devin explained we do have the capability to increase funding if necessary from various property line items.
- Sue Wehnes inquired the line item regarding the scholarships. Pastor Mark explained that the scholarships are typically used for youth to be sent on mission trips and various events.
- Vik Bekeris inquired regarding budgeting towards Lutherdale type retreats. Devin explained that budgeting for the events are overseen by staff members and encouraged members to give suggestions to the staff members. Sandy Hupert also mentioned that the Lenten offerings will be used for Lutherdale type retreats.

Closing Prayer —Pastor Mark

Meeting adjourned – 12:30 pm

Submitted by,
Mike McCann

Shepherd of the Prairie Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2013

Called to order – 11:40am

- Quorum required is 121. In attendance 126
- Teller – Bud Hansen
- Parliamentarian – Jessica Panella

Opening Prayer – Pastor Mark Boster

Looking Back

- A motion to approve the minutes from the 2012 annual meeting was made by Rich Willie, 2nd Kira Friendris.
- Jessica Panella asked for the following corrections: Mission statement needs to be corrected, Kristy Warnke's name is misspelled, Jill Gillming name is misspelled. Under 2012 budget discussion, related to Pastor Mark's loan, the word should be loan not land.
- Motion to approve as corrected made by Sandy Hupert, 2nd Donna Kelly. Voted on and approved as corrected.

Committee and Ministry Reports

A motion to accept the reports was made by Donna Sorensen motion, 2nd Carol Waxenberg. A motion to approve was made by Chris Solem, 2nd Chuck Peterson. Voted on and approved.

2012 Financial Reports

Financial Update by Devin Burg

Devin recognized and thanked the finance team for assistance during 2012.

General Fund Update

- We closed 2012 with income exceeding expenses by \$4,747. Our unrestricted cash in the general fund now approximately \$50,920.
- Total income to the general fund increased 5% over 2011.
- Expenses for the year ended very close to budget. Please review the actual vs. budget comparison on page 19 and 20 in the annual report.
- We were able to fulfill our commitment to the Northern Illinois Synod by providing \$54,000 in mission support.
- We were also able to appropriate \$4,456 of our regular member contributions to local mission. This does not include special offerings which also support local mission.
- The provisional accounts were fully funded through our operating budget designation. The provisional accounts are designated savings for non-recurring expenses.

Building Fund Update

- During 2012 we were able to reduce our loan principal by \$229,690.45. \$124,690.45 was from regular payments and \$105,000 was from additional principal payments.
- Interest expense for the year totaled \$39,397.55.
- We were able to send additional principal payments every quarter last year. We always maintain a 3 month payment reserve.

Ralph Wehnes motioned to approve the 2012 financial, 2nd by Sandy Hupert. Motion voted on and approved.

Outgoing council members recognized – Rebecca Fulcer and Kathy Pizarro

Looking ahead

- We watched a video highlighting 2012.
- Reminder of our mission statement—*We care for God's Children of all Ages by growing disciples who make disciples.*
- **Guiding Principles reviewed**
 - Listen to God – *Proverbs 16:3*
 - Welcome enthusiastically – *Matthew 10:40*
 - Teach the life and love of Jesus – *Matthew 14:36*
 - Encourage and equip everyone to make a difference in God's world – *1 Peter 2:5*
- Current staff members asked to stand and were recognized
- New team is being developed -Strategic Planning Team for Mission. Jeff Cordle was introduced as the leader of this team.
- Mother's Day – Bishop Mark Hanson will be visiting SOTP
- June 8-16, 2013 – Kentucky Mission Trip will take place
- We are working with Peter Eide to be here for Reformation weekend. The plan is a concert on Saturday evening and participation in worship on Sunday at 10:45am service.
- SOTP congregation selected for Orion Samuelson's TV show- Taping will be December 7, 2013 and all are encouraged to attend.

SOTP Leadership Retreat Highlights

Pastor Bill presented on Stewardship-to include discussion of selected bible verses.

SWOT analysis was the focus of the retreat – 4 groups each worked on one area (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). The top 5 priorities were identified as a result of this exercise. Council will use this information to determine 2013 goals. The number one area identified was Caring for Members.

Sabbatical resolution (see page 39 of 2012 annual report)

Carol Waxenberg motioned to approve the resolution 2nd Ferdie Kimminau, no discussion. Voted on and approved.

Election of Audit committee

- Rich Juergensen – He has been member 3 years, member of finance team since it began. No nominations from floor.

Motion to elect made by Wayne Schmidt, 2nd Sandi Stewart. Voted on and approved.

Election of Nominating Committee

- Outgoing Council Members – Rebecca Fulcer and Kathy Pizarro
- Sharon Little, Steve Conway, Bonnie Bayser

Motion to close the nominations made by Victor Pizarro, 2nd Ron Knudsen. Motion to elect made by Chris Solem, 2nd Kathy Dahl. Voted on and approved.

Election of Synod Assembly Voting Members

- Steve Brown and Jodie Dowell

Motion to close the nominations by Alice Hallett, 2nd Sandi Stewart. Motion to elect made by Chuck Peterson, 2nd Kristy Warnke. Voted on and approved.

Election of Congregation Council Members

- Adam Adams – 1st three year term
- Amy Brittain – 1st three year term
- Larry Newbanks – 2nd three year term

Motion to close the nominations made by Richard Dahl, 2nd Sue Wehnes.

Motion to elect made by Chris Solem, 2nd George Sebastian. Voted on and approved.

2013 Budget

Devin Burg provided comments/summary of 2013 budget

2013 Budget Highlights

- The 2013 budget has been reviewed and approved by the Finance team and the Council.
- The budget represents an approximate 5% increase over the 2012 year end results.
- The largest increase in the budget is in staffing. The budget provides a 3% increase in staff salaries. There are two areas to note with the salary projections.
 - Pastor Mark's increase is based upon a combination of salary and housing allowance which together make up his total salary. We placed the entire increase in salary as the 2013 housing allowance designation had not been made prior to creation of the budget.
 - The Office Manager's salary increase is based upon an updated job description. This resulted in an increase in hours and hourly rate rather than a simple 3% increase.
- The Northern Illinois Synod contribution for 2013 is 10% of our projected member giving. In the past, we have always operated with a reasonable operating surplus allowing us to be more aggressive with our pledge. As our budget is considerably tighter than in the past, we would like to be more conservative with our pledge and give more as we are able. When we make a pledge to the synod, they are counting on those funds for their budget. If our giving doesn't reach our projected goal, it would be difficult to reduce our contribution.
- The finance team and the council believe this is a supportable budget with sufficient contingencies built in.

A motion to approve the 2013 budget made by John Bohler, 2nd Carl Hupert.

Comments from floor

Ron Knudsen - regarding salary increases for staff. Social Security only gave 1.6% and some was taken away by Medicare increases. Many people have not had raises in many years. There is concern about the increase percentages for the staff. If the budget is tight, we cannot keep going back "to the well".

Devin commented that our congregation is doing well and that we have an excellent staff that is performing well. They should be rewarded accordingly.

George Sebastian – Average salary increase in the country this year will be 3%.

Ralph Wehnes – Not opposed to increase, we have an excellent staff. Is 3% enough? We do not want staff looking elsewhere.

Alice Hallett – Office manager hours –what are the increased hours? Response – Increased from 15 hrs to 18 hrs.

Dottie Bobzin – Regarding the AV coordinator-Did the salary go up? No, the \$1800.00 is for the portion of the year in 2012 when we contracted for this position. The \$7200.00 is for the complete year 2013.

Warren Brody - Why is there no reserve fund for the building (i. e. roof etc.)? Building team and finance team is working on this.

Kris Fleener – What are the balances for the provision accounts? (listed on page 17 of annual report)
Following discussion the approval of 2013 budget was voted on and approved.

Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items discussed

Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

Meeting adjourned – 12:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

—*Kathy Pizarro*

Pastor's Report to the Congregation

January 2014

Another great year of ministry is behind us. Lives touched by the redeeming love of the Father. Hearts warmed by the close embrace of Christ' amazing grace. People inspired to lives of service through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We have been blessed to be a blessing. Thank you for coming along with us on this marvelous journey of faith.

Each of us has played a role in God's offering to us to share in bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to earth.

Within the pages of this Annual Report are reminders of how God has used the body of Christ at Shepherd of the Prairie to be a light to the world. I encourage you to read these ministry stories.

When God reached out and claimed you, when the waters of baptism hit your head, when the echoes of those Old Testament words "I will be your God and you will be my people" came floating into your lives, God claimed you not only as an object of that incredible love, but drew you into it, filled you with it, and sends you out with it!

If the only "ministry" done by followers of Jesus were done by the professionals, this church, this movement, this amazing thing called the "body of Christ" would have dried up and blown away centuries ago. But ministry isn't that narrow.

It never has been, and it can't be now. Martin Luther called it "the priesthood of all believers," a recognition that we are all priests to this hurting world. And every one of you has ministry to do that the world needs.

When your office mate breaks down with the pain and grief of his wife's diagnosis of cancer, you might want to call for the pastor, but you're it—if he's going to hear anything of the love and hope and courage that comes from knowing Jesus walks with him, you're it—you're the one he's going to hear it from.

When your kids start thinking about all this God stuff and deciding maybe it's all fairy tales and maybe they should grow out of it now, you might want to call the pastor (!) but that's not going to be an option—if those kids are going to hear that with all their questions and wonderings this is still the core of how you understand life, they're going to hear it from you. And more to the point—they're going to take it seriously if they've seen it shape your life!

When our community is going to decide how to respond to the poor folks and the broken families living down the way, you may want someone at church to get involved instead of you, but you're the one making those decisions, shaping your community—when Jesus and the prophets tell us to care for the widow and orphan, the stranger, the imprisoned, the hopeless—they're not just saying the priests do it it's what God's people do—it's the measure of our faithfulness!

Now as you are reading this and thinking to yourself "I can't do it—I don't know enough answers, I don't know what to say, I don't know what to do"—I say that has nothing to do with it.

We're all growing into this, every one of us at different points, and the power of what we do or say in any one place is God's power, not our own. We are all unfinished products in need of God's amazing grace to redeem us and the Holy Spirit to guide to say and do things beyond our own abilities.

We simply tell our own story, witness to what we have seen and heard in our own life, live the love we have experienced...and what comes of it is God's. God makes you a minister. You don't do it yourself! But a minister you are!

One of the many blessings in this past year has been the creation of strategic directions for our church. These directions were created through small group cottage meetings that were held in the Fall along with interviews done with community leaders seeking guidance on how a caring congregation might serve the needs of our community.

You will recall our Lord Jesus statement to his disciples, "as you have done to the least of these, you have done to me." We pray these direction will help to sharpen our focus in reaching those God wishes us to be especially mindful of ("the least among us") in our church and community.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of wise men on a journey.... *“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.’”* Matthew 2:1-4

In John 20:19-23, Jesus says these words—When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

There are many journeys we can take in today’s world, many voices we can listen to, many stars that we can follow. But only one leads us into the path of abundant life.

I want to challenge you this year to set out on a journey of faith. Get deep into your faith. Join a Bible study. Spend more time in prayer. Focus more intently in worship on God’s purpose for your life.

The wise men were searchers who were on a journey of faith. Their goal was to bow before the newborn king.

And when they found him they bowed down before him and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. These were expensive gifts.

The gifts represent devotion. They gave of themselves. Here is the key to life. Give of yourself. Give of yourself to God. Give of yourself to others.

That is what I wish for each of us in his New Year. The Wise Men came searching. Their search took them on a journey of faith. When they found the newborn king they offered him gifts, gifts that represented the best that was in them. Thank you for sharing your best and offering your lives in devotion and service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

On His Journey

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Pastor Mark", written in a cursive style.

—Pastor Mark

Director of Adult Education

Once again, it has been such a blessing to be among you, working in the field of Christian education. To learn together, to grow together, to be challenged together: this is so much a part of our journey with Christ.

We continued offering growth opportunities on Sunday mornings at 9:00 and 10:30; on Tuesday evenings at 7:00; on Wednesday mornings at 11:00, and in the evening at 6:30.

In January we completed our study of the Gospel according to Luke, our primary gospel for 2013. One Sunday was given over to a presentation in preparation for our annual meeting, and another to consider our faith journey—those people and places who've shaped our life of faith.

During the season of Lent, we used a video presentation by Dr. David Lose, professor of preaching at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, titled *Making Sense of the Cross*. This was challenging material but very well received.

Following Easter, we had one session where we explored the rich resources given to us by our new hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. This was followed by a study of Paul's letter to the Colossians.

During the summer Pastor Mark has the opportunity to teach (one of his many gifts!); and in the fall, we inaugurated a new year of adult education with a presentation on our up-coming trip to Luther's Germany. That was followed by a study of the Apostles' Creed, led by Pastor Jim Carr. And that, in turn, was followed by a study of the Gospel according to Matthew, our gospel for 2014.

On Wednesday evenings we looked at the *Basics of the Faith*, including "Bible 101" and "Lutheranism 101".

In addition, I met with congregational leaders four times, focusing on what it means to be a leader in stewardship.

As we move into 2014, we'll begin with a study of church history—where we've come from as a Christian faith, and what the Christian church has meant to history, exploring the good, the bad, and the ugly. During the season of Lent, we'll explore the meaning and power of God's grace; and, later in the year, we'll provide a look into the life and times of Martin Luther, in preparation for our journey to Germany in September. (There's still time to sign up!)

In the fall we'll deepen our appreciation of the fourth gospel, the Gospel according to John, so different from the other three.

What a blessing it has been for Carol and me to be a part of Shepherd of the Prairie, and for me personally to work with an incredibly talented staff! God's continued blessings to you all.

—*Pastor Bill Waxenberg*
Director of Adult Education

Lay Ministry/New Member Coordinator

What a blessing it has been to receive and answer God's call to this new ministry in his church here at SOTP! I am still in the process of "getting my feet wet" but am enjoying the process. While I'm sure working full time this coming year and serving as Lay Ministry/New Member Coordinator will present some challenges, I believe the grace of God and love of my family here at SOTP will make it possible.

Since Nov 1, I have been busy catching up with some of the record keeping and working to put together our new members from November and the ministry teams and groups that represent their interests. I have found that to be an undertaking filled with joy and satisfaction.

As this new year begins I look forward to working with everyone here at SOTP to provide opportunities to all members to serve where their interests and hearts lie and to develop programs to help them make those determinations. Jesus said that where our treasure is there our heart will be also and I believe that where our hearts are, there our ministry will be as well. SOTP has so many opportunities for ministry that there must certainly be at least one that touches the heart of each of us.

A family needs all of its different members fitting and working together to keep the family close-knit and functioning well. SOTP is a family with many varied and diverse members and it takes all of us fitting and working together to make the whole family function at its best. My hope is to find ways for each and every member to recognize how important that are to this branch of God's family we call Shepherd of the Prairie and how much we need them in order to be complete.

I wish you all of God's grace and peace as we work together in the upcoming year!

—*Donna Kelly*

Lay Ministry/New Member Coordinator

Youth and Family Ministry

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

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

Summary of 2013 Accomplishments

- 25 Students confirmed in Rite of Affirmation of Baptism
- 63 Students enrolled in Confirmation
- Taught 6th and 7th grade students in sanctuary
- Taught 8th grade students in large Sunday School room
- Started gift card fundraising program
- Used every room in church (including sanctuary) for small groups
- 51 Confirmation students attended 2013 Fall Confirmation Retreat at Lutheran Outdoors Ministries Center in Oregon, Illinois
- Attended "Feed My Starving Children" in April to package food to send to areas of hunger. Our efforts fed 74 children for 1 year.
- Attended "Feed My Starving Children" in December to package food to send to areas of hunger. Our efforts fed 73 children for 1 year.
- Re:refresh focused on building and trusting our relationship with Jesus
- Held Fall Family Night at Richardson Corn Maze
- Youth collected and packed 186 boxes for Operation Christmas Child
- 26 students and 6 adults attended Creation Restoration 3.0 to Lexington, Ky
- 150 young people attended Vacation Bible School

Looking forward to

- Attending Feed My Starving Children in April 2014
- Creation Restoration 4.0 mission trip in June – Backpacking in Glacier National Park and partnering with a local church to serve in the community
- Confirming 22 8th grade students in Rite of Affirmation of Baptism
- Monthly "Parent Nights" to educate and inform parents on current youth culture issues
- Additional volunteers to lead our high school students and host re:refresh in their homes. At our growth rate and lack of space, this is a much needed solution.

—*Greg Dowell*
Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Congregation Council Report

At the annual Leadership Retreat held in January Council Members, Staff and key ministry group leaders completed a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) exercise to identify areas of focus for Shepherd of the Prairie in 2013. The goals identified were communicated to the congregation through temple talks and the April newsletter.

2013 Congregational Goals

A recurring theme that was discussed several times during the retreat was that of Member Care. SOTP has a history of caring deeply for our members and the community around us and we wanted to ensure we continued this area of focus throughout 2013.

I. Expand Communication and Programs for Member Care

- a. Initiate Ministry of Communion from the Assembly. (Program to share the Lord's Supper with those unable to participate in Worship)
 - Pastor Ken Pohlman and the In-reach team led training for 15 members in April. The Council approved calls for the 15 members who were installed in June.
- b. Expand meaningful connections with our members through our prayer ministry.
 - In-reach Prayer ministry teams have put together a procedure for a 'Caring Callers' ministry which will begin training in early 2014.
- c. Conduct Leadership Training on a Quarterly Basis
 - Pastor Bill led 4 training sessions during Ministry Meeting Nights (2nd Monday of each month) for ministry group leaders
- d. Survey Congregation to Identify Educational Needs
 - This sub-goal is a work in progress. More information to come in 2014.

Another theme discussed frequently during the retreat was that of member involvement and how we could ensure involvement in any activity at SOTP is more impactful on member lives. Participation at SOTP is at an all-time high with many people active in multiple groups. Our intent is to ensure anyone that has an interest in a committee or group has the opportunity to do so and that Ministry groups are reaching out to those members who have indicated a desire to join their group.

NOTE: Items a, b and c (below) were tabled for 2013 and will be re-addressed in 2014 with the assistance of Donna Kelly (New Member Welcome and Involvement Coordinator).

II. Facilitate Member Involvement

- a. Revamp time and talent sheet to stress ministry interest
- b. Restructure the New Member Gathering and Prairie Guide Program
- c. Identify Ministry Teams needs in order to connect people to meaningful service
- d. Technology Capability Meeting - 2nd Monday of June (What SOTP website currently offers and how it can be better utilized)
Dennis Lilla led a presentation at the September Ministry Night meeting focusing on the SOTP website. This is a very robust website with a lot of information available to every member.

A key action item of the retreat was that SOTP put in place Strategic Direction Team for long and short-term planning - not only for SOTP members and our building, but for what we can do for the communities we are a part of.

III. Strategic Direction and Planning

- a. Examine our ability to assume any long term expansion
 - The Council will address in 2014.
- b. Support Strategic Direction Ministry Team
 - The Strategic Direction Team (Jeff Cordle – leader, Matt Greene, Jules Pelka, Marlene Boehler and Jessica Buesing) presented 4 Strategic Direction statements to the council at the December council meeting. These statements were accepted by the Council and were the focus of the Jan 20, 2014 retreat.
- c. Evaluate Audio/Visual ministry function and its effectiveness in worship
 - Greg Dowell was hired for the position of A/V coordinator.

The above goals and results reflect specific tasks the Council and ministry groups focused on in 2013; however we know so much more is happening at Shepherd of the Prairie. Shepherd of the Prairie is blessed to have a truly caring, committed congregation that actively seeks to make the lives of everyone around them better on a daily basis.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Bob McDuffee*
Council President

2013 Year End Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report that Shepherd of the Prairie ended 2013 in a very strong financial position. I would like to provide some history behind our budget and also provide some financial highlights for the 2013 fiscal year.

As a reminder, Shepherd of the Prairie has an Operating Budget which manages the everyday operating expenses of the church, and a Building Fund Budget which manages our Mission Investment Fund Loan.

First, I will start with our Building Fund. After spending many years worshiping at Chesak School, and then the Cosman Center, we constructed our Church Building in 2009. In order to construct this building, we borrowed approximately \$1,980,000 from the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA. The high balance of \$1,980,000 was reached on November of 2010. We have been raising funds through our building fund to pay down this debt. In addition to making our regular payments, we were able to apply an additional \$113,600 in additional principal payments to our loan this year. As of December 31st, 2013, we have reduced the balance to \$921,896.32. It is exciting to see how fast we are paying off this debt. As we pay down this loan, we will open up other possibilities for growing our ministry. We are anticipating another strong year of paying down our debt.

In regards to the Operating Budget, we fluctuated between small surpluses and small deficits during 2013. Staff expenses were down as the Lay Ministry Coordinator was vacant for approximately 8 months. With strong end of the year giving, we were able to meet all of our obligations, and fund almost all of our provisional accounts. When we fund our provisional accounts, we are intentionally funding our designated reserves. So, our true surplus for 2013 was closer to \$9,123. We were also able to give approximately 11% of our operating income to the Northern Illinois Synod and local charities.

In 2013, the finance team recommended a change in the way we account for prepaid pledges. Historically, prepaid pledges were accounted in the year they were received. This year, prepaid pledges are listed as a liability on our year-end balance sheet, and accounted as income for 2014. There was \$11,100 of 2013 prepaid pledges received in 2012. If that is added to our 2013 member contributions, our total income would increase to approximately \$496,004. This would represent a slight increase in member contributions compared to 2012.

Our budget for 2014 is flat compared to our 2013 budget. With minimal growth in our operating budget income, we want to be conservative with our 2014 budget. The budget will require an increase in member contributions in order to fund all the projected expenses and our provisional accounts. The Council and Finance Team agree that this is a reasonable projection and have measures that can be taken to reduce costs if necessary. It was exciting to see how the financial generosity of our members supported such excellent ministry in 2013, and we are in great shape to continue supporting this great work in 2014.

Feel free to inquire about the church's financial condition at any time. You can contact me or a member of our finance team with questions. We also provide the financial reports as part of the monthly council report which is available to all members.

Yours in Christ,

—*Devín Burg*
Treasurer

Financial Reports

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2013

Tuesday, January 07, 2014

Page 1 of 2

Account # Account Name YTD Balance

Assets

Current Assets

1.100.000	Heartland Bank Checking	176,768.96
1.200.000	Mission Plus Building Fund Checking	66,788.65
1.400.000	Heartland Bank Youth Account Checking	4,698.32
Total Current Assets		\$248,255.93

Fixed Assets

1.300.000	Building & Grounds	1,980,000.00
Total Fixed Assets		\$1,980,000.00
Total Assets		\$2,228,255.93

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

2.000.000	Accounts Payable/Vendors	(904.38)
2.100.000	Prepaid Pledges	22,100.00
Total Current Liabilities		\$21,195.62

Long Term Liabilities

2.200.200	MIF Commercial Loan Payable	921,896.32
Total Long Term Liabilities		\$921,896.32
Total Liabilities		\$943,091.94

Fund Balances

Unrestricted Fund Balances

3.100.000	General Fund Balance	50,898.66
Total Unrestricted Fund Balances		\$50,898.66

Temporary Restricted Fund Balances

Dedicated Funds

3.170.000	Special Services Fund Balance	5,745.95
3.175.000	Memorial Fund Balance	1,364.61
3.180.000	Grafton Food Pantry Balance	510.00
3.200.000	Heifer Fund Balance	819.96
3.210.000	Grant Donations	255.00
3.220.000	AV Ministry Balance	22.18
3.250.000	Good Samaritan Fund Balance	2,646.15
3.260.000	Evangelism/Outreach Fund Balance	3,723.71
3.300.000	Music Ministry Fund Balance	
3.330.000	Adult Music Ministry Fund	3,993.75
3.345.000	Childrens Music Ministry Balance	1,754.00
Total Music Ministry Fund Balance		\$5,747.75
3.350.000	Prairie Crafters Fund Balance	691.00
3.360.000	Miscellaneous Fund Balance	7,205.43
3.400.000	Youth Ministry Fund Balance	
3.415.000	Youth Ministry Balance	2,246.43
3.417.000	Youth Mission Trips Balance	(3,217.39)
3.421.000	Youth Scholarship Balance	2,453.00
3.422.000	Operation Christmas Child Balance	88.36
3.423.000	Confirmation Retreat Fund Balance	1,075.00
Total Youth Ministry Fund Balance		\$2,645.40
3.424.000	Gift Card Program Balance	4,698.32
3.500.000	Little Lambs Fund Balance	11,812.10

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2013

Tuesday, January 07, 2014

Page 2 of 2

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
3.600.000	Prayer Shawl Ministry Balance	172.60
3.700.000	Disaster Relief Fund Balance	3,290.00
3.940.000	Endowment Fund Balance	5,030.00
Dedicated Funds Total		\$56,380.16
Building Fund		
3.125.000	Building Fund Balance	60,255.25
Total Building Fund		\$60,255.25
Reserves		
3.950.000	Inreach Reserves Balance	1,512.93
3.960.000	Outreach Reserves Balance	5,963.67
3.970.000	Bldg & Grounds Reserves Balance	18,868.14
3.975.000	Maintenance Reserves Balance	20,680.80
3.980.000	Equipment Reserves Balance	11,300.70
3.985.000	Sabbatical Reserves Balance	1,200.00
Total Reserves		\$59,526.24
Total Temporary Restricted Fund Balances		\$176,161.65
Equity		
3.130.000	Building & Grounds Equity	1,058,103.68
Total Equity		\$1,058,103.68
Total Fund Balances & Equity		\$1,285,163.99
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances		<u>\$2,228,255.93</u>

Financial Reports (cont)

2013 MIF Loan Report

MIF loan balance as of 12/31/2012	\$	1,177,696.35
Principal Reductions thru loan payments	\$	142,200.03
Additional Principal Payments	\$	113,600.00
Total Principal Paid in 2013	\$	255,800.03
MIF Loan Balance as of 12/31/2013	\$	921,896.32
Interest Paid on loan for 2013	\$	35,561.97
Total 2013 Building Fund Expenses	\$	291,362.00

2013 Building Fund Income

Building Fund Donations	\$250,608.70
Church Group Donations	\$11,348.50
Total Building Fund Donations	<u>\$262,693.53</u>

* The total funds spent on principal and interest in 2013 exceeded the total Building Fund contributions as we received donations in 2012 that were spent in 2013.

Financial Reports (cont)

2013 Financial Report Page 1

	Actual 2013		Budget 2013
Income		Income	
Member Contributions	\$454,741.37	Member Contributions	\$470,000.00
Loose Plate & Growth	\$27,198.47	Loose Plate & Growth	\$41,756.00
Flowers	\$2,735.00	Flowers	\$3,000.00
Interest Income	\$229.11	Interest Income	\$600.00
Total Income	\$484,903.95	Total Income	\$515,356.00
 Mission Ministry (Pastor Mark)		 Mission Ministry (Pastor Mark)	
ELCA NI Synod 10%	\$47,000.00	ELCA NI Synod 10%	\$47,000.00
Local Mission 1%	\$4,122.67	Local Mission 1%	\$4,700.00
Good Samaritan	\$978.29	Good Samaritan	\$750.00
	\$52,100.96		\$52,450.00
 Outreach Ministry (Donna Kelly)		 Outreach Ministry (Donna Kelly)	
Outreach/Evangelism	\$4,267.78	Outreach/Evangelism	\$8,000.00
Advertising	\$4,638.52	Advertising	\$6,000.00
Misc. Outreach Expenses	\$680.52	Misc. Outreach Expenses	\$500.00
	\$9,586.82		\$14,500.00
 Adult Education Ministry (Rev. Waxenberg)		 Adult Education Ministry (Rev. Waxenberg)	
Adult Discipleship	\$2,124.41	Adult Discipleship	\$4,000.00
Small Group Ministries	\$0.00	Small Group Ministries	\$400.00
Retreats	\$72.00	Retreats	\$1,000.00
Other. Adult Christian Ed.	\$513.82	Other. Adult Christian Ed.	\$100.00
	\$2,710.23		\$5,500.00
 Youth and Education Ministry (Greg Dowell)		 Youth and Education Ministry (Greg Dowell)	
Youth Resources	\$2,403.84	Youth Resources	\$2,500.00
Youth Curriculum	\$0.00	Youth Curriculum	\$1,500.00
Trips	\$2,382.33	Trips	\$1,250.00
Retreats	\$0.00	Retreat	\$500.00
Software/Subscriptions	\$2,097.13	Software/Subscriptions	\$1,500.00
Confirmation	\$5,038.42	Confirmation	\$3,500.00
Sunday School	\$599.29	Sunday School	\$1,500.00
VBS	\$2,908.52	VBS	\$3,500.00
Other Youth and Education	\$711.72	Other Youth and Education	\$250.00
	\$16,141.25		\$16,000.00
 Music Ministry (Jane McMullen)		 Music Ministry (Jane McMullen)	
1st Service Music	\$178.60	1st Service Music	\$300.00
2nd Service Music	\$1,020.32	2nd Service Music	\$300.00
Adult Bell Choir	\$1,190.43	Adult Bell Choir	\$1,000.00
Children's Music Ministry	\$864.82	Children's Music Ministry	\$1,000.00
Adult Choir	\$531.58	Adult Choir	\$1,000.00
Youth Bell Special Music	\$1,253.82	Youth Bell Special Music	\$1,000.00
Special Music	\$5,900.00	Special Music	\$4,100.00
Piano Maintenance	\$600.00	Piano Maintenance	\$700.00
Bell Maintenance	\$0.00	Bell Maintenance	\$250.00
Licensing Fees	\$825.00	Licensing Fees	\$750.00
Misc. Music Expenses	\$3,158.75	Misc. Music Expenses	\$300.00
	\$15,523.32		\$10,700.00
 Worship Ministry (Pastor Mark)		 Worship Ministry (Pastor Mark)	
Flowers	\$2,894.47	Flowers	\$3,000.00
Altar Guild	\$681.97	Altar Guild	\$1,000.00
AV Ministry	\$3,635.01	AV Ministry	\$1,500.00
Pastoral Assistance	\$1,318.75	Pastoral Assistance	\$1,000.00
Worship Supplies	\$745.38	Worship Supplies	\$750.00
Misc. Worship Expenses	\$237.23	Misc. Worship Expenses	\$250.00
	\$9,512.81		\$7,500.00

Financial Reports (cont)

2013 Financial Report Page 2

	Actual 2013		Budget 2013
Facilities (Property Team)		Facilities (Property Team)	
Cleaning Service	\$6,505.00	Cleaning Service	\$7,200.00
Utilities	\$7,823.69	Utilities	\$12,000.00
Waste Removal	\$1,881.71	Waste Removal	\$1,500.00
Lawn Care/Snow Removal	\$4,829.00	Lawn Care/Snow Removal	\$9,700.00
Maintenance/Cleaning Supplies	\$398.22	Maintenance/Cleaning Supplies	\$750.00
Outside Contract Services	\$4,759.39	Outside Contract Services	\$1,700.00
Misc. Facilities Expenses	\$1,077.96	Misc. Facilities Expenses	\$150.00
	\$27,274.97		\$33,000.00
Office Expenses (Office Staff)		Office Expenses (Office Staff)	
Office Supplies	\$8,038.43	Office Supplies	\$9,600.00
Office Equipment	\$2,748.36	Office Equipment	\$600.00
Web/Software Expenses	\$2,963.26	Web/Software Expenses	\$1,500.00
Telephone Expense	\$2,029.30	Telephone Expense	\$2,400.00
Postage	\$967.01	Postage	\$2,000.00
Dues & Subscriptions	\$0.00	Dues & Subscriptions	\$600.00
Equipment Rental	\$7,897.04	Equipment Rental	\$7,000.00
Misc. Office Expenses	\$2,795.90	Misc. Office Expenses	\$300.00
	\$27,439.30		\$24,000.00
Staffing Ministry (Council/Finance Team)		Staffing Ministry (Council/Finance Team)	
Pastor Salary	\$51,774.54	Pastor Salary	\$51,780.00
Pastor Housing Allowance	\$31,999.92	Pastor Housing Allowance	\$32,000.00
Lay Ministry Coordinator	\$1,891.25	Lay Ministry Coordinator	\$16,550.00
Youth Ministry Coordinator	\$36,364.98	Youth Ministry Coordinator	\$36,365.00
Director of Music	\$31,286.19	Director of Music	\$31,286.00
Organist	\$12,315.00	Organist	\$12,360.00
Tech Support Manager	\$26,183.23	Tech Support Manager	\$25,395.00
Office Manager	\$10,383.20	Office Manager	\$12,960.00
Director of Adult Education	\$33,809.70	Director of Adult Education	\$33,810.00
Staff Training / Continuing Ed.	\$2,987.80	Staff Training / Continuing Ed.	\$4,000.00
Social Security	\$11,129.75	Social Security	\$15,000.00
Pastor Health Insurance & S.S.	\$42,631.63	Pastor Health Insurance & S.S.	\$42,000.00
Misc. Staff Expenses	\$1,593.72	Misc. Staff Expenses	\$2,500.00
AV Coordinator	\$7,219.58	AV Coordinator	\$7,200.00
Pastor's Continuing Ed.	\$0.00	Pastor's Continuing Ed.	\$1,000.00
Payroll Processing Expense	\$191.60	Payroll Processing Expense	\$0.00
	\$301,762.09		\$324,206.00
Other Church Expenses (Pastor Mark)		Other Church Expenses (Pastor Mark)	
Scholarships	\$0.00	Scholarships	\$1,200.00
Committee Expenses	\$2,558.42	Committee Expenses	\$3,000.00
Insurance	\$3,950.00	Insurance	\$7,600.00
Automobile Expenses	\$5,302.99	Automobile Expenses	\$3,800.00
Human Resources	\$150.00	Human Resources	\$1,000.00
Bank/Legal Expenses	\$733.28	Bank/Legal Expenses	\$400.00
Misc. Expenses	\$1,034.58	Misc. Expenses	\$1,000.00
	\$13,729.27		\$18,000.00
Providing for the Future (Council/Finance Team)		Providing for the Future 9Council/Finance Team)	
Provision for Outreach Programs	\$750.00	Provision for Outreach Programs	\$750.00
Provision for Inreach Programs	\$172.93	Provision for Inreach Programs	\$550.00
Provision for Equipment	\$1,000.00	Provision for Equipment	\$1,000.00
Provision for Maintenance	\$3,000.00	Provision for Maintenance	\$3,000.00
Provision for Sabbatical	\$1,200.00	Provision for Sabbatical	\$1,200.00
Provision for Building & Grounds	\$3,000.00	Provision for Building & Grounds	\$3,000.00
	\$9,122.93		\$9,500.00
Total Expenses	\$484,903.95	Total Expenses	\$515,356.00
Net Income	\$0.00	Net Income	\$0.00

Statistical Report

Statistical Report							
Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Baptized Members	421	478	531	711	849	962	1064
Worship Attendance	229	241	362	392	426	446	451
Ministry Income	\$304,068	\$321,632	\$371,390	\$422,028	\$469,630	\$492,641	\$496,004
Baptisms		21 Children 4 Adults	8 Children 3 Adults	9 Children 4 Adults	14 Children 6 Adults	12 Children 5 Adults	10 Children 6 Adults
Weddings		4	2	7	4	3	7
Confirmations		6	2	9	11	18	20

2014 Ministry Reports

Youth & Family Ministries

GEMS

GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior) is a bible study/small group for 4th and 5th grade girls. We do a craft and lesson with them. This program has about 9 girls this year. It is a good lead in to confirmation. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 6:30-8:00 pm. Brandi Lorenzo and Jenn Huston are currently leading this group, but will be looking for someone to take this over Fall of 2014.

—*Jenn Huston*

LITTLE LAMBS

Our Little Lambs Early Learning Program has grown again this year! We have 22 children enrolled for the 2013 – 2014 school year (several of them are enrolled in 2 different classes). We have a T/Th class with twelve, 3 & 4 yr. olds, a Wednesday one-day class with ten 2 – 4 yr. olds. Both classes are at 100% capacity!!! Classes meet from 9:00 am – noon. During this time we enjoy: circle time, math/language lessons, letter and letter sound recognition, Bible stories, crafts, music, snack, free play and more! These activities help children develop Kindergarten readiness skills, a love for Bible stories and the knowledge that God loves us all!

About the teachers:

- **Jill Gillming** graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in Education. She has taught in the Huntley school district, and was an aide for kindergarteners with special needs. She has also served as a Director of Education at a Sylvan Learning Center. Jill lives in Huntley with her husband and two children. The Gillming family are charter members of SOTP. This is Jill's fifth year teaching at Little Lambs.
- **Jeni McCann** is the assistant teacher. Jeni has a bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois in Computer Science. Jeni is an active member of SOTP. She has helped with many of the children's choirs, often plays flute for our worship services and is a member of the Prairie Ringers. Jeni lives in Algonquin with her husband and two daughters.
- **Donna Brown** is our Aide. She helps out all morning in the Wednesday class, and from 9:45 – 11:15 in the two-day classes, when we reach 9 or more in class. Donna is an active member of SOTP. She has headed up the Vacation Bible school program for a number of years. Donna lives in Huntley with her husband and her son.

This Christmas, the Little Lamb program purchased two lambs, for Heifer Project, with Little Lambs funds as a Thank You to Shepherd of the Prairie.

We will be starting early enrollment for the 2014 school year in February. Children between the ages of 2 and 4 yrs. (by Sept. 1st) are accepted into our program. They do not need to be potty trained and do not need to be members of SOTP. Enrollment is limited, so, if you are interested in signing up your child, or, if you know someone who is, please contact us at littlelambs@sotpmail.com.

We see the smiling faces on our students and parents, every week, and feel the program has been a great success! With God's blessing, we'd like to see the program continue to grow!

—*Jill Gillming, Jeni McCann, Donna Brown*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

2013 was a fantastic year for us in the Sunday School! The School year started off with an old fashioned ice cream social to help introduce our teachers to the parents and to generate some excitement in our program. We enrolled 124 students this fall and have served 567 students so far this year during both services. We currently have 14 volunteer teachers and another serving as the director of our Bible Bucks store. Speaking of the store, we changed the way we display the items, making it a little more like an “in store” shopping experience. We have also added quite a few items, focusing on some higher end items to hopefully motivate the children to save up. We are in the beginning stages of introducing technology. Overall we have received rave reviews and great feedback to help us make it better each and every week we come in. I am especially thankful for and pleased with the work of our teachers.

Looking forward to 2014, my focus will be on retaining attendance and challenging the parents to help us by reinforcing our lessons at home during the week. We also are looking into starting a youth group for our Sunday school age children that would meet once or twice a month to serve God by volunteering in our church and our community. I am also committed to finding new ways to recognize our teachers for the sacrifice and commitment to following their hearts and sharing their love of God with the children of our congregation. We will roll out an easy signup system that will allow our congregation to update information instead of having to completely re enroll each year. This will also allow us to maintain a searchable and sortable database of general information. Church leaders will be able to easily and quickly access and create email lists to use in other programs. We are planning on ending the school year with a bang, throwing our first end of year bash to wrap up the school year. We have made many leaps and bounds so far this year and are striving to make more progress as the year continues.

—*Mike Parmele*

Sunday School Director

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

We are on our second year of doing dinners on Wednesday nights. Our purpose is to allow families to enjoy spending time together with their church family while eating a home cooked meal. We understand how busy everyone is with church, sports, work etc.; so one night a week families have one less thing to worry about. Last year we started out serving about 35 people. This year we have grown to around 65. We serve from 5:30-6:15. We charge \$2 per person or \$10 for a family. This covers the cost of the main part of the meal. We do have a sign up for side dishes that people can bring in to keep our cost of the meal down. Brandi Lorenzo and Jenn Huston take turns each week cooking. We both enjoy serving and look forward to continuing this ministry next year.

—*Jenn Huston*

Mission Ministries

GRAFTON FOOD PANTRY

Our first Sunday donations are a huge help at the pantry. Also the confirmation class not only donates food each week but on Sunday they help load the van and then help unload the van at the pantry. They are a blessing.

This year Thrivent donated money to pay for the Thanksgiving meals that were given out to each of the clients. We also gave meals at Christmas. Many of the congregation took names off the Giving tree and made Christmas brighter for many families. We have SOTP members who are regular volunteers at the pantry and their help is very much appreciated. If you are interested in being a volunteer contact Alice Hallett or Michelle Rankin.

Blessings,

—*Alice Hallett*

MISSION TEAM

The Mission Team works toward accomplishing the goals of the church's mission statement and our own purpose statement," Caring for God's children of all ages and places by identifying mission opportunities, encouraging and equipping SOTP members to actively make a difference in God's world."

We have been blessed to be entrusted with identifying and designating 1% of the Congregation's budget as well as special offerings such as Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Together, we have donated over \$17,000.00, spread among those listed below. As you can see we have had a strong local emphasis.

- Buddy Program – LSSI prison ministry – (Rockford)
- ELCA Typhoon Disaster Fund- Philippines- Global
- Elgin Community Crisis Center (Kane County)
- Exodus World Service - Local and Global ***
- Grafton Food Pantry (Huntley)
- Green Tree Garden Work Project (Huntley) ***
- Home of the Sparrow (McHenry County)
- Interfaith Community Mc Henry County Jail Detainees
- Lutheran Social Services of IL
- Northern IL Food Bank ***
- PADS (Crystal Lake) ***
- Mission Bratislava Expense – Shannon Mc Mullen (local & Global)
- Pioneer Center (McHenry County)
- Senior Care Volunteer Network (Mc Henry County)
- Stubbs Missionary Sponsorship in Tanzania Africa (ELCA) – Global
- Turning Point (McHenry County)

**** denotes that opportunities were offered for SOTP members (usually intergenerational) to actively participate in that particular ministry.*

Thanks to all of you at SOTP for making this possible and of course thanks to the wonderful people have been part of our Mission Team this last year: Mark Bidinger, Jill Brown, Rebecca Hennessy, Carl Hupert, Donna Kelly, Steve Legel, Theresa Molgren, Corinne Neukirch, Jules Pelka, Sid Sorensen and Mary Trodahl. We are always looking for new people and new ideas, please contact any team member if you might have some input or questions.

Respectfully Submitted

—*Sandy Hupert*

Mission Team Chair

PRAIRIE CRAFTERS

We had several sales this year along with our usual spring sale and Christmas Bazaar. Outside sales thru the year were also a big help. This year we donated \$9,300.00 to our debt reduction. We could not do this without help from everyone who not only helped make the crafts and baked goodies but sold them and especially those who bought our crafts. We are always looking for new ideas. We meet the first Thursday of each month so come join us.

God Bless all of you.

—*Alice Hallett, Joan Kiminau, Noreta Walker*

PRAIRIE POINT QUILTERS

Fellowship, prayer and team work with many quilters produced 81 quilts for World Relief, 6 quilts for Home of the Sparrow and 9 quilts for nine families of the Washington tornado. These could not be a blessing to all those in need without the help of you who furnished material, sheets for backers and quarters for our supplies. We can never forget those working to cut and sew for us at home as well as how much we appreciate the husbands who help set-up, box and deliver the quilts. Last, but certainly not least, we thank Thrivent Financial for their generous contribution of money used for batting. Working together all things are possible. Thanks to all for a great year.

—*Elaine Brody - Ruby Haerle*

PRAYER MINISTRY

Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father . . .", Paul instructs us to "Pray without ceasing." Believing there is power in prayer, we bring our joys and sorrows to God knowing that He hears and answers. You place your prayer requests on the usher's table in Crossroads or leave them in the church office. You phone or email prayer requests to Renae Greene at the church office or to Theresa Molgren. Everyday Theresa emails the new requests to the 66 members of the prayer ministry team. Each week the published prayer list is revised and printed in the weekly announcements. We encourage all members to use the prayer list in your private devotions.

If you have a prayer request, contact Renae at the church office ([847-669-9948](tel:847-669-9948)) or Theresa Molgren ([847-961-6876](tel:847-961-6876)).

If you wish to join the prayer team and receive prayer requests and updates via email, contact Theresa.

—*Theresa Molgren*

Prayer Ministry Team

PRAYER SHAWLS

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been very busy this year. The shawls are knitted and/or crocheted and given to anyone in need of prayers. This can be a joyful event or for someone needing comfort. We have given out 190 prayer shawls this year not only locally but also to Centrega hospital and to the Hospice group.

This year we also gave out Baptism blankets to all who were baptized. A big thank you to Thrivent and all who have donated money and/or yarn to help pay for our materials. We are grateful to everyone.

For anyone wishing to join our group you are most welcome and we will be happy to teach you how to make the Prayer Shawls.

—*Alice Hallett and Jeanne Henley*

Worship Ministries

Worship Ministry Team

Members: Sue Wehnes, Ferdie Kimminau, Pat Fiorese, Jane McMullen, Greg Dowell, Pastor Mark

Council Representative: Mike McCann

Two members chose to step away from the team this year. We thank Carl Hupert and Mike Yndestad for their devotion to the team while members.

Listed are a few highlights regarding our 2013 year:

- Fourth and fifth graders were trained to be Acolytes for our Sunday morning services. We appreciate the young students assisting with the Worship service.
- Greg Dowell joined the team as the Audio/Visual representative
- Worship Arts Team was formed. This team will prepare guidelines regarding art or sculpture added/donated to the SOTP property. This past year the team updated the wall behind the cross with a contrasting color. Also the handicap bathroom was painted with a new softer wall color. Thank you to Pam Fender for preparing and painting both areas.
- We were blessed to have Bishop Mark join our Mother's Day service.
- Time was spent preparing for the WGN Christmas taping in December. Decorations/layouts were planned for this day as well as Lent, Easter and the Advent/Christmas season.

The team thanks all members who assisted with the weekly worship services in 2013.

Prepared by

—*Pat Fiorese*

AUDIO-VISUAL

Shepherd of the Prairie A/V ministry exists to assist our congregation in worshipping with excellence and to support the other ministries of SOTP in their presentational needs.

Over the last year, many improvements, from hardware to procedural have been made:

Improvements

- To reduce load on the A/V computer, we added a second pc, which is dedicated solely to recording the worship services
- We have installed software, which runs on a schedule, which will automatically record the worship services. Although this hasn't been as easy as it would seem, it appears to be fully operational. We continue to monitor this software carefully.
- A video mixer has been installed which provides seamless transitions between the camera and the A/V pc.
- Along with the new chancel, cabling has been run underneath it, to provide a clean, neat appearance.
- A stage monitor has been added to enable the worship band to take the focus off the music on their music stands and better engage the congregation when leading worship.
- Better organized file structure of video backgrounds, countdowns, stills, etc. to make it easier for video operator to apply elements to worship program.
- Provide ongoing training during Thursday night rehearsals to any A/V volunteer who desires a little extra help in using our technology.
- To assist in proficiency, volunteers are on a schedule of operating every other week. This has changed from once per month. This way, A/V volunteers can keep fresh and avoid forgetting what they need to do when operating the soundboard, video controls, camera, or video mixer.

Staffing Levels

- Presently, the ministry is supported by volunteers led by Greg Dowell.
- Members of the A/V Ministry include: Greg Dowell, Jim Rice, Ferdie Kimminau, Tom Polzin, Henry Martin, Tim Reincke, Zach Ott, and Adam Adams. Kyle Frendries and Ralph Wehnes step in to help out from time to time.
- Continually searching to for volunteers to grow the A/V ministry

—*Greg Dowell*

Director of Youth & Family Ministries

ALTAR GUILD

We are very fortunate to have wonderful members who take great care in preparing the Eucharist for all worship services. Guild members are trained in proper etiquette for set-up and take-down for each service plus cleaning of all the vessels. The linens are laundered by guild members and they make sure assistant minister robes are cleaned and pressed. Altar paraments are changed to reflect the colors of the liturgical calendar. We assist the minister and Worship Ministry Team for any special needs for all services.

Our members prepare for baptisms. Each child baptized receives a personalized napkin embroidered by Carol Lilla; name banner made by Carol Kalbas & Elaine Neukirch; white blanket knit by the Prayer Shawl Ministry; and a faith chest made by Chris Trodahl. The talents of each individual make the baptism a very special memory for each child.

Taking orders for flowers for the Easter garden and poinsettias for Christmas are handled by our Guild. We decorate the Christmas tree with the hand-made Chrismons. Also; thank you to a group of women who coordinate the decorations for special services throughout the year. Members of the team are Sandy Martin, Judy Symbol, Kathy Pagano and Sue Wehnes.

The Altar Guild has a budget each year. Supplies are purchased as needed – wine, grape juice, gluten-free wafers, whole wheat wafers and all other items as needs arise. Pat Fiorese made new banners for our Easter, Pentecost, Advent and Christmas seasons. Thanks to Kathy Pizarro for her sewing skills in assisting Pat with the banners. Membership in the Altar Guild is open to all members of SOTP. We encourage you to consider serving in this important ministry.

Thank you to all who serve so faithfully on the Altar Guild

Respectfully submitted,

—*Susan Wehnes* (Chairman)

COMMUNION BREAD BAKING

Volunteers prepared Communion Bread for each worship service in 2013. At the present time, we have approximately 32 bakers – thus needing their baking skills approximately twice each year. The recipe used makes 8 individual loaves. Saturday bakers prepare bread for three consecutive Saturday evening services as each Saturday service uses only two loaves. On Sundays, one baker will prepare the bread for both services. If additional bread is required, the remaining two Saturday loaves are used during the Sunday service.

Thanks to all who donate their time and talent to this ministry. Are you interested in being part of the team? Please call or email me and I will schedule you to be part of this team.

Thank you for serving

—*Pat Fiorese*

COMMUNION FROM THE ASSEMBLY

The ministry of home communion was established this year as a result and desire of Pastor Mark to reach those of the congregation that were unable to attend church due to illness or other conditions. The Inreach Committee placed a call to the congregation for those willing to become part of this new ministry. Pastor Ken Pohlmann was able to train 15 members of our church to be Ministers of Communion from the Assembly. The ministers were commissioned in June of 2013. This ministry is designed to help care for God's children by seeing that the sacrament is made available to all who wish to receive it regularly. It is also a method to include all of God's children by extending the reach of the worshiping community on Sunday and giving a spiritual lift to include them in our church life and family.

Communion is taken from the altar to homes, facilities and hospitals. We have served between eight to ten members a month on the second and fourth Sundays of the month from June 23rd through December 22nd of 2013. Anyone wanting to receive this service need only to call the church and we will add you to our list. If you would be interested in serving in this ministry please call Donna Kelly.

FAITH CHEST MINISTRY

The Faith Chest Ministry provides a hand-made personalized wooden chest for each person baptized into faith at our Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church.

The Faith Chest is intended to be a place where documents, mementos and keepsakes of one's journey to faith and adulthood can be stored and is presented by Pastor Mark immediately following the Baptismal Ceremony.

Currently the Faith Chests are being handcrafted by Chris Trodahl.

—*Chris Trodahl*

FLOWERS TO SHUT-INS

Any flowers that have been ordered for Sunday services and not wanted by the individual who ordered them are delivered to either someone in the hospital or who is ill at home. This is done by a member of this ministry.

—*Mary Trodahl*

WEDDING COORDINATOR REPORT 2013

The wedding coordinator's responsibility is to work directly with the Pastor and with the couples preparing for marriage at SOTP. This includes making arrangements such as designating rooms the wedding party may use, coordinating use of facilities, and ensuring the wedding and building usage policies are understood and followed. I also have the pleasure of working with the wedding party during rehearsal so things run smoothly on their special day. There were 2 weddings at SOTP in 2013 where I provided assistance and we look forward to many more in 2014.

—*Kara Burg*

WORSHIP GREETERS

This ministry is one that truly enables individuals to meet and greet current members and visitors prior to worship services at S.O.T.P. Anyone interested in helping in this ministry may contact our Lay Ministry Coordinator, who in turn will let me know if someone is willing to help. The commitment usually involves just one Saturday or Sunday per month and it is not only rewarding to the Greeter but gives the members and/or visitors a strong feeling that Shepherd of the Prairie is a warm, caring congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,

—*Joanne Klínger*

USHERS

The end of the year is rapidly approaching. Due to health reasons, a few members have requested to be removed from the usher list. I thank them for their willingness to always assist and prepare the Sanctuary for worship services. We are diligently looking for new members. You would select either the Saturday evening service, Sunday 9:00 or 10:45 a.m. service. The usher requirements are to greet and offer a bulletin to members/visitors as they enter the Sanctuary for worship. Also assist with the passing of the offering plate.

At the beginning of 2013, Acolytes joined our worship service. Acolytes are fourth and fifth grade students. The students light and extinguish candles for Sunday morning worship services. The ushers assist the students with the lighting of the torch prior to the service.

A few other changes occurred during the year, the biggest one is collecting the offering from the outside aisles for the Sunday services. This allows the video camera to have a full view of all musical groups that may be performing at this time.

Once again, I want to thank all the men, women and students who volunteer – a great job is done by all. Respectfully submitted,

—*Ferdie Kimminau*

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS COORDINATOR

Assisting Ministers, Communion Stewards and Readers are all important and very necessary part of our worship services. Without them, Pastor Mark would be the only--and very lonely—person in the nave.

It has been such a privilege to have served as a coordinator securing volunteers for all these positions for each Sunday, and any other special Holiday worship services, throughout the year. Yes, doing this does involve many telephone calls, but they are all to people who have already volunteered to serve in these positions and they are more than willing to serve for a specific worship service. This report gives me the opportunity once again to say “Thank you so very, very much for your commitment and your generous in-spirit response whenever I call any of you. You are all such a blessing to the Ministry of our church, and I truly appreciate it.

Also, we wouldn’t mind if the list of volunteers to serve as Assisting Minister, Communion Steward or Reader becomes longer! If you're at all interested in serving in any of these positions, you may contact me. Training will be scheduled on a regular basis by Pastor Mark throughout the year.

Again my heartfelt thanks to each and every one! Blessings to all

—*Brigitte Pelka*

Music Ministries

REJOICE WORSHIP BAND JANE McMULLEN, DIRECTOR

We currently have two solid teams leading our contemporary worship service at 10:45 a.m. every Sunday. These teams work very hard to lead God's people in praise and worship, preparing 8 to 10 songs per Sunday. We currently are being led by vocalists, piano, guitars, drums, keyboard/synthesizer with the addition of violin, flute, saxophone and other instruments on occasion. This fall, we welcomed Dennis Caravello as lead guitar and bass player; it has been a joy having Dennis with us.

We are always looking for more team members! Please prayerfully consider joining the band if you have the gift of singing or instrumental music. Contact Jane McMullen if interested.

YOUTH BAND JANE McMULLEN, DIRECTOR

With so many extremely talented young people in our church family, the only thing to do was to start a Youth Band. These young people continue to lead worship several times a year and are a joy to participate in worship with.

Many of the youth also provided special music for our Christmas Eve services too.

In addition to all these groups, we also have many small instrumental ensembles who have enhanced our worship at our services. These ensembles have included multiple combinations of: clarinet, flute, violin, cello, trumpet, trombone, baritone and saxophone.

SHEPHERD'S VOICES ADULT CHOIR JANE McMULLEN, DIRECTOR

The adult choir is currently averaging 20 to 25 members in size. We welcomed several new people to our "Christmas Choir" for the Orion Samuelson Christmas special. We had 37 voices in that choir; it was awesome! The choir sang 3 anthems as well as "Silent Night", with the first verse sung in German, featuring Tami Koenig (The Adam Family's exchange student) and Brigitte Pelka, our favorite German gals!! Thanks to all singers who have faithfully come to rehearsals and given their best. We have sung great music with and without vocal and instrumental soloists, and enjoyed good fellowship together. In February 2013, several of our choir members attended rehearsals on 6 Monday nights and sang in the Ecumenical Palm Sunday Concert at St. Catherine's Church in West Dundee. This February, we will begin rehearsals for the Easter Choir and invite more folks to join. You only have to be present for four rehearsals to sing Good Friday and Easter Sunday! Please prayerfully consider joining us, we welcome all new members enthusiastically!!

CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY (CMM)

The CMM has an e-mail address this year: cmm@sotpmail.com. We have been sending all CMM notices to families from this address.

BLESSINGS CHOIR MICHAEL WAAL, DIRECTOR

The Blessings Choir continues to be a real joy in my work at SOTP. We currently have 10 members, including 1 boy (Way to go, Shane)! We have presented music for worship each month beginning in September, with December being quite busy. We sang for the Children's Worship services on December 15, as well as at the early Christmas Eve service. One particular thrill was to sing for the taping of "A Country Christmas" on December 7! What a wonderful experience to actually be able to "be on the set" of a real Television show! The kids looked great, and sounded wonderful! My hope for the new year is that we can increase our numbers as we continue to learn new music and sing for worship, broadening our faith.

Respectfully,

—*Michael Waal*
Director

CHERUB CHOIR (AGES 3-6) SANDY MARTIN, DIRECTOR

We are blessed to have 22 children registered in the Cherub choir this year. They range in age from 3-6, with our six-year-old first graders being our "leaders". The children were delighted to participate in the "Country Christmas" special, and really worked hard to learn all of their music! As the majority of them cannot yet read, many thanks to the parents for working with their children on their "homework"---the words to all the songs!!!

We are so blessed to have Jeni McCann as our accompanist again this year. While our rehearsal time is short, we try each week to incorporate a bit of learning--we talk about what we are singing and how it relates to Jesus and his love for us (and ours for him!) and music terminology. This is a wonderful group of children, who delight and amaze us each week, and bring great joy to our services with their musical offerings!

Respectfully Submitted,
—*Sandy Martin*

PRAIRIE RINGERS HANDBELL CHOIR KRISTY WARNKE/JANE McMULLEN, DIRECTORS

The Prairie Ringers helped to lead worship services at SOTP in 2013, including several 5:00 p.m. services on Saturdays. We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:45 – 9:00 p.m., in the sanctuary, September through May.

We have 12 ringers and several substitutes that we call on regularly. We especially want to thank the Spirit Ringers; these talented and willing kids have helped us many times through the year.

In September, Kristy and Jerry Warnke moved to Virginia to be closer to their grandkids, and Jane McMullen began directing the Prairie ringers. Heartfelt thanks to Kristy for directing this Choir for the last three years.

The Prairie Ringers participated in the Orion Samuelson Christmas Special, playing one solo piece and accompanying the Christmas Choir on the anthem "Christmastime" by MW Smith.

We also offered two pieces at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Well done!!

SPIRIT RINGERS HANDBELL CHOIR (YOUTH/HIGH SCHOOL)

Our Spirit ringers have provided many musical offerings throughout the year in worship and will continue to have a great role in our worship services. We have 13 "energetic, funny, bright, talented" and devoutly faithful ringers in our group. Our rehearsals are filled with hard work, fun and great fellowship. Only 9 more bass bells are needed to complete our 5 octaves!

Spirit Ringers have been recently meeting to practice on Friday late afternoons, but also rehearse on Sunday afternoons, usually in the fall, through the sports seasons.

In February 2013, we rehearsed and participated in the annual Ecumenical Palm Sunday concert involving 10 area churches, and the concert was held at St Catherine's in West Dundee.

Spirit Ringers played on Easter Sunday this year. We also spent several months preparing for the Orion Samuelson Christmas Special which we played 3 beautiful Christmas pieces. What a great job these young people did!!

In December, Larry and Donna Newbanks graciously hosted a Christmas party for all the Spirit Ringers and their families. We brought bells and chimes and headed over to the Heritage Home in Huntley to offer Christmas Carols to the residents.

A HEARTFELT thanks to all the parents, grandparents and friends of Spirit Ringers for all their help, generosity and support !!

This is truly a "bell family", these kids and parents have bonded beyond my wildest dreams and the Lord continues to bless all of us in so many ways!

—*Jane McMullen*
Director

THE JOY/JUBILATE RINGERS (BEGINNING CHIMES/BELLS) MICHAEL WAAL/ DENISE JAMES, DIRECTORS

This is a combined group of children from 2 separate choirs in grades 2nd -5th, with 12 children playing in the group. We focus on learning proper bell ringer techniques and learning to follow music. We currently use chimes and play songs using chords with accompaniment. The children played “Away in a Manger” for the Christmas season while the Cherub Choir sang. We will continue to work on proper technique and begin to learn to play a simple handbell piece in the upcoming months. In January, 2014, we will have enough children to redivide these groups back into the Joy Ringers and the Jubilate Ringers, respectively. The groups will continue to learn ringing techniques as well as hone their reading skills.

JUBELLATION RINGERS (INTERMEDIATE BELLS, 5TH - 7TH GRADE).....JANE McMULLEN, DIRECTOR

This group has 12 ringers, with space for a few more. The Jubellation Ringers have provided musical offerings throughout the year, and have also accompanied our Blessings vocal choir on occasion. This Christmas Eve, the Jubellation group played 2 beautiful pieces that truly enhanced our worship.

In order for a student to be successful in this group, we require better than basic music reading skills for each ringer. This group is a training ground for our Spirit ringers and young people will be moved when age and skill levels are appropriate. Please email Jane McMullen if your child is interested in joining this wonderful group of ringers.

ORGANIST MICHAEL “MICKY” WAAL

Again, we are so blessed to have Micky with us. Not only is he a consummate worship leader on the organ and piano, but he is an extremely generous person with his time and many other talents. Micky has taken on the direction of the Blessings and Jubilate choirs this year which has been a real joy for the children’s music ministry. It continues to be an honor and joy to work with such a talented and faithful person!

MUSIC LIBRARIAN

There are not enough words to properly thank Tammy Uteg (and her husband Arthur—many times I have seen him carrying a laundry basket full of music to take home and sort) for the job she has done as music librarian. She has patiently sorted, filed, and documented mountains of music on a weekly basis. We could not do what we do without these awesome silent servants. Thanks so much Tammy and Arthur for all your efforts!!

What an incredible year! I am so thankful for the richness of our music programs at SOTP and excited to see where God will lead us in 2014. I am full of gratitude for all who have served and who continue in our mission to make Christ known and honor and praise God’s Holy name.

With Respectful Submission,

—*Jane McMullen*

Director of Music and Worship

Fellowship Ministries

SOTP BOWLING LEAGUE

The League is halfway thru our 4th year. We continue to grow, and are now at 12 teams. Thanks to Greg Dowell and some enthusiastic parents, 4 of our teams are made up of our High School Youth Group. Each session is fun, and everyone has a good time, even after they cry when they roll that "perfect" ball for a "strike", and somehow it ends up as a "gutter ball".

The League is a perfect opportunity for church members to get together socially. We meet only once a month (the 3rd Friday) at Brunswick Zone on Randall Rd. in Algonquin at 6:00 p.p. There is NO requirement to be a good bowler to bowl in this League, all levels are welcome. It is open to all ages, high school and above, men and women, married or single.

Teams consist of 4 bowlers, and we bowl 3 games. The cost is low, and is a great way to have fun, meet with friends, get some exercise, and only commit to 1 night a month, from September thru May.

We are always looking for new members. You can be a regular or substitute bowler. Feel free to call me at (847) 659-1331, or E-Mail me at schmidtw12@comcast.net

—*Wayne Schmidt*
League Secretary

CARING CARD

The Caring Card Ministry sends cards to those in our congregation who are ill, hospitalized, grieving of a loved one and Congratulations to those who are Baptized, those receiving their First Communion, Confirmation and High School Graduation. We also make the banners for Baptism and Confirmation.

We also send holiday cards to our Servicemen and Women who are listed in the Announcement Bulletin each Sunday Morning. Thanks to those members who keep us updated on their change of address.

With the passing of Helen Berry, I was blessed to have Carol Kalbas volunteer to help me with the cards and banners. Also, Carol Spiller volunteered to make any cards we may need for our Ministry. We also welcome the help of Judy Symbal when needed.

—*Elaine Neukirch, Carol Kalbas & Carol Spiller*

FFAA (FUN FOR ALL AGES)

FFAA (Fun For All Ages) basically organizes three all congregation member events for the calendar year at SOTP. We were very pleased with the attendance at all three in 2013. We served over 350 adults and children at the five Lenten soup suppers during Lent. We had over 200 adults and children at the Church Picnic at Deicke Park in August. We served over 125 adults and children at Piefest the night before Thanksgiving. Our goal is to organize and support all church member activities. We are planning a possible scavenger hunt and trivia night in the spring of 2014. Got a new idea? Bring it to our attention and we will consider it.

A big 'thanks' to all the committee members for all their time and service-Mary Trodahl, Tracy McDuffee, Jodi Dowell, Vic and Kathy Pizarro, Neal and Shannon Mejdrich.

—*Sharon Little*

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Another year has come and gone—it is hard to believe how fast this past year has gone. We will welcome the New year. The Men's Fellowship Breakfast group have been meeting at Sammy's Bar & Grill in Huntley at 9:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. All men are welcome to join us any time, it is a good way to meet one in a small group. We have no special topic of discussion, just food and fellowship, and some times personal. Everyone seems to enjoy the time together, hope to see you there.

—*Ferdie Kimminau, Chris Trodahl*

HELPING HANDS/FUNERAL MEALS

The Helping Hands funeral lunch ministry has had another year of learning and serving. We were challenged with two funeral luncheons in a week for the first time. We continue to look for new leaders so this ministry can be refreshed with new ideas on how to serve others during their time of grief. This ministry is open to anyone who has an interest in planning, cooking or serving during a funeral luncheon. Respectfully submitted,

—*Carol Lilla*

INREACH

“A ministry of listening and caring in order to be present and to provide support and invitation for persons of SOTP to witness the presence of Jesus and to promote excellence in caring for God’s children who are served by this congregation”. This is the statement of purpose for the *InReach* committee.

2013 was the first full year of ministry for the *InReach* team and we were busy not only defining who we are and what we are about, but beginning to develop and institute our first ministry program.

Our first mission in caring for the family of SOTP was to train and commission Ministers of Communion from the Assembly. This ministry serves those of our SOTP family who are unable to attend community worship for various reasons; both those who are unable on a temporary basis as well as for an extended time.

In June twelve Ministers of Communion from the Assembly were commissioned and sent forth after an extensive training by Pastor Ken Poulmann and approval by the Church Council. Ministers were trained in history of the program, how to conduct the Communion Service and in ways to deal with challenging situations that could arise. The ministry has been very well received by the entire group of those served and the congregation as a whole. Another training class is being considered for spring of 2014. See the attached report on this ministry for more details.

Workshops for Pre-planning of Funeral Services were held twice this year led by Pastor Ken Poulmann. Several people attended and were richly blessed by the information and opportunities provided.

In December, a Birthday Party for Jesus was held here at SOTP providing an interactive way for young children to understand that Christmas is Jesus’ birthday. A birthday party was designed with young children in mind which included a simple lunch, crafts, a party game, face painting, Christmas songs, the Christmas story and of course a birthday cake with candles and the singing of Happy Birthday! Please see the following report of this ministry for more details.

The *InReach* Team has an ongoing ministry in its planning stages. Caring Callers will train members in how to make “pastoral care” telephone calls to SOTP family members who are being prayed for by the Prayer Ministry in order to let them know they are being thought of and to see if there is any need they may have that can be provided by SOTP or to direct them to the resource that can provide that service. Our hopes are to have this ministry in place in 2014.

This fall two team members, Patty Driscoll-Shaw and Donna Kelly, participated in an extensive 12-week program training to be commissioned as Lay Chaplains through a joint effort by the Episcopal and ELCS churches. It was a valuable, challenging and inspiring program and has equipped the two of us to assist Pastor Mark in the pastoral care of the members here at SOTP. We hope to send two more people for training in the fall of 2014.

The hopes and dreams of the *InReach* are to eventually provide support groups for various needs in the SOTP family and to develop resources as future needs arise.

It has been my privilege and joy to serve as the team leader for the *InReach* this first year.

—*Donna Kelly*

INREACH—“BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS” REPORT

On December 14th the *OnReach* Team held a Birthday Party for Jesus. It was planned like a real birthday party right down to the party hats, balloons, games, crafts and birthday cake. Invitations were distributed with the service bulletins prior to the event. Each guest was asked to “bring a gift for Jesus” which was a pair of gloves to be donated to the Grafton Food Pantry. The children and their families enjoyed a variety of fun crafts. They had fun decorating edible Christmas trees, as well as creating their very own Christmas wreaths. The children also had a chance to play a game of “Pin the Star to the Christmas Tree”. All the children enjoyed getting their faces painted by Janice Shuff. The guests also enjoyed a hotdog lunch which was followed by story time. Donna Kelly shared her silly rendition of the Birth of Jesus and all the children had a great time participating in the story. We ended the party by singing Happy Birthday to Jesus and enjoying some cake. The children were given goody bags to take home.

—*Shannon Mejdrich*

OUTREACH/WELCOME

The Outreach Team continues to staff volunteers in the Welcome Center at all worship services to provide a warm welcome for first time visitors through the Mugging Ministry.

The Outreach Team organized the Shepherd of the Prairie booth at the Huntley Expo. We created a “Welcome” brochure featuring pictures of many of the ministries offered at SOTP. Our booth included games, prizes, and information about the fellowship and ministries of our church family. The children enjoyed playing the BOZO bucket game and received prizes and coloring sheets of Jesus with the children. We shared our love for Jesus by inviting the community to attend VBS this summer.

We continue to encourage worshipers to notice the signs at the exits of our church; they read, “You are now entering the mission field”. We hope they will be a gentle reminder to everyone as they leave our church to continue spreading the Good News of Jesus love and resurrection.

Summer was a busy time for us. With help from the members of SOTP, we assembled a float for the Huntley Memorial Day Parade. We presented each Outreach Team member and each parade participant with a white t-shirt. On the front of the shirt is a red stop sign with the letters SOTP. The shirts were a big hit and we will be ordering more shirts to be worn at our other community events. We handed out red signs along the parade route in the shape of stop signs with the letters SOTP on the front and worship information on the reverse side. The crowd cheered and waved their SOTP signs as we marched down Main Street. We all had a great time sharing our love for Jesus with the Huntley Community!

We continued to Reach-Out to the community as we participated in the Huntley All American Family Fun Day in Huntley Town Park. Our booth included information about SOTP worship services and ministries of our church, the children loved the face painting, we also had games and prizes. Fourth of July weekend is a great time to be outdoors and have fun with friends and family. Both events were great opportunities for our church family to work together to spread the Good News of Jesus love to our community. The community can see what a great church family we have as we work together to tell others about Jesus.

We continue to encourage those who worship at SOTP to be a good neighbor to the Huntley Library and support their ongoing newspaper recycling project, the collection bins have been full and the library is receiving the maximum amount of money for each bin. This fundraiser supports many programs and activities sponsored by the library.

We continue to distribute the SOTP recycle bags! The bags feature our new SOTP logo and can be used for shopping, carrying books, crafts, or as a gift bag filled with gifts for a friend.

The Reach Out to Help Others Member Business Directory is complete. We have distributed one per family and since the first printing; we have had more interest from businesses to advertise and continue to update it frequently.

The main purpose of the Outreach Team is to invite people looking for a church home to worship at SOTP. Please continue to look for pictures in the Neighbor's Section of the Northwest Herald Newspaper featuring events of fellowship as we reach out to our community.

Our gift to everyone attending Christmas Eve services was a large, fish shaped magnet with a cross and information about SOTP. The magnets can be placed on the back of our cars inviting people to join our church family for worship services.

—*Barb Hoch*

PRAIRIE GUIDES

Prairie Guides is a unique social ministry in which members of the congregation serve by welcoming new members to the church. New members are welcomed to SOTP during a casual new member welcome the Sunday following a New Member Gathering. This welcome event facilitates communication not only between current and new members, but also among current members and new members. We encourage Prairie Guides reach out to the New Member families to make them feel welcome and provide them with a connection to the church. During 2013, Shepherd of the Prairie welcomed new members in February, April, August and November.

We are always looking for new Prairie Guides to join us in welcoming new members to the church. The expectations are simple. Prairie Guides attend the New Member Welcome (the weekend following the New Member Gathering) to meet and greet new (and current) members. Guides are also familiar faces for new members at church services. If you enjoy meeting new people, this is the ministry for you. Please contact Amy Brittain if you are interested in welcoming new members to our church!

Thank you,

—*Amy Brittain and Lisa Sova*

SPARKPLUGS

The purpose of the Sparkplugs is to experience Christian fellowship in a small group with an interest in classic cars, sports cars and motor sports. In addition to focusing on auto related topics and participating in cruise nights, Sparkplugs are interested in promoting basic car maintenance and safe driving.

If you have an interest in anything automotive or would like information on safe driving DVDs for your ministry group, please call Bob Malm at (847) 695-0368.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Bob and Carolyn Malm*

WELCA

WELCA" W-4 Women Who Work Wonders:

This acronym truly describes the role many women from Shepherd of the Prairie play while participating in the purpose statement of WELCA. "We commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world". When recalling events sponsored by WELCA, 2013 was another faith filled year.

For the year of 2013/2014, the officers of WELCA are: Donna Sorensen, Chairwoman, Barbara Pagano, Chairwoman, Secretary, Janice Shuff and Treasurer, Michelle Rankin.

Four general meetings, the Annual Retreat, Quilting and Prayer Shawl Groups, Prairie Crafters, Book Chatters, Helping Hands, and Bible Studies round out the **Umbrella of WELCA's Ministries and uplift the talents and gifts of our women.**

A SPA Retreat, Getting in touch with your Spiritual Self, was held on Saturday, April, 23rd from 9 AM-2 PM." with guest speakers Chiropractor/Acupuncturist Dr. Alan Stoughton, Barbara and Sara of "Divine Tranquility" and Carlee Petelle, Mary Kay Representative. Gift bags (50) with many spa items were packed for Home of the Sparrow's Women's Shelters.

Mary Tabatt and Carol Waxenberg facilitated **Beth Moore's Study of the book of James** during June-August on Thursday mornings from 9-11:00 am. Collection for Malaria tents was taken. (Over \$300 was collected.)

A salad luncheon and showing of Liz Curtiss Higgs video "Embrace Grace" on August 14th brought us together to discover freedom of forgiven life.

Michelle Rankin chaired collecting **school supplies and back packs for Grafton Food Pantry school children**. Our efforts supported many children as they returned to school last fall.

The Board attended **the Northern Illinois Synod Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Convention** on Sat. Sept 21, 2013 in Peru, IL.

To uplift WELCA's Bible Study, "In Good Company: Stories of Biblical Women", we kicked off the **General Meeting** on Monday, Sept. 23rd, with dinner and a skit. Twisted Truth Tales Unraveled was performed by three unlikely women prominent in God's chosen lineage of Jesus: Tamar, Rahab, and Bathsheba.

To continue our focus on outreach and mission, Barbara Pagano invited Steve and Paulie from **Bookfriend's International** for a program informing us about their Foundation building libraries in Tanzania. A dinner of Tanzanian Cuisine and an offering of used books brought us together to learn more of this organization's mission for African children.

The annual **Christmas party, "A Cup of Christmas Tea"** was held on Sunday, Dec. 8th 1-3pm. Tickets at \$10 apiece were sold for the "Tea Assorted Menu" prepared by committee members of SOTP Women. Storytelling was the theme, and we were spiritually blessed when Carol Waxenberg presented her rendition of "The Innkeeper's Wife". Gift cards and 6 quilts were presented to clients of Home of the Sparrow's Women's Shelters. (\$326.00 and 6 quilts valued at 125.00 = \$1,076.00)

Weekly Study facilitated by Friends Bible Study leader, Barb Hoch, meets on Monday afternoons. Friendship Circle, Mary-Martha meets on the third Thursday of the month with studies from Gather Magazine.

Planning ahead- the annual retreat is planned for April 5, 2014 and a Mother Daughter Fashion Review Banquet with election of officers will be held on June 14, 2014.

See Treasurer's Report below, prepared by Michelle Rankin, Treasurer.

We are blessed to have a strong unit of women participating in the mission and purpose of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As our church continues to grow, it is important that we strengthen our friendship circles, experience fellowship, serve locally and abroad and grow in the study of God's Word. We hope to see you at one of these small groups enjoying good company. As Julie Ageson writes in Gather, "Keeping good company is a privilege. Good company is life giving."

—*Donna Sorensen, Barbara Pagano, Janice Shuff, and Michelle Rankin,*
WELCA chairs

WELCA TREASURER'S REPORT

Check #	Date	Description	2013 Treasurer's Spreadsheet	Payment (-)	Deposit (+)	Balance
	2013	BEGINNING YEAR OPENING BALANCE				\$ 809.66
*	1/24/13	Thanks offering		\$ 458.15	\$ 1,267.81	
*	1/24/13	Happy Birthday Jesus Collection		\$ 132.00	\$ 1,399.81	
1574	2/25/13	Frances Wilson ~ reimburse for receipts	\$ 44.34		\$ 1,355.47	
1575	2/25/13	Women of the ELCA Chicago Office Donation	\$ 458.15		\$ 897.32	
*	4/10/13	Spa Retreat Fees Collected		\$ 410.00	\$ 1,307.32	
1576	4/13/13	Tropical Café ~ Spa Lunch	\$ 163.00		\$ 1,144.32	
1577	4/13/13	Judy Spencer ~ WELCA Expenses	\$ 144.00		\$ 1,000.32	
1578	4/13/13	Divine Tranquility (Spa Retreat)	\$ 50.00		\$ 950.32	
1579	4/13/13	Home of the Sparrow Donation	\$ 50.00		\$ 900.32	
*	5/14/13	Deposit ~ Retreat money		\$ 30.00	\$ 930.32	
1580	5/28/13	Frances Wilson ~ expenses food	\$ 25.32		\$ 905.00	
1581	5/28/13	LWR Malaria Nets	\$ 100.00		\$ 805.00	
1582	5/28/13	SOTP ~ OK Tornado Relief	\$ 100.00		\$ 705.00	
1583	5/28/13	SOTP ~ Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 100.00		\$ 605.00	
1584	5/28/13	Prayer Shawls, Crafters, Quilters...	\$ 150.00		\$ 455.00	
1585	5/28/13	SOTP ~ Office Supplies	\$ 50.00		\$ 405.00	
1586	5/28/13	VOID	\$ -		\$ 405.00	
1587	5/28/13	Purchase of Walmart Gift Cards for Fire Dept	\$ 150.00		\$ 255.00	
1588	5/28/13	Grafton Food Pantry Donation	\$ 99.23		\$ 155.77	
1589	5/13/13	Women of the ELCA Yearly Tithe	\$ 55.00		\$ 100.77	
*		Beginning Bank Balance New Officers			\$ 255.00	
1588	5/28/13	Grafton Food Pantry Donation (Didn't clear)	\$ 99.23		\$ 155.77	
1589	5/28/13	Women of the ELCA Yearly Tithe (Didn't clear)	\$ 55.00		\$ 100.77	
*	8/23/13	Deposit - Malaria Campaign		\$ 356.24	\$ 457.01	
1590	8/23/13	ELCA Malaria Campaign	\$ 356.24		\$ 100.77	
1591	9/9/13	Donna Sorensen (Leader Guides Reimbursement)	\$ 21.85		\$ 78.92	
1592	9/12/13	WELCA Conference Registration (Janice Shuff & Michelle Rankin)	\$ 60.00		\$ 18.92	
*	10/21/13	\$15 each from Janice Shuff & Michelle Rankin for Conference		\$ 30.00	\$ 48.92	
*	10/21/13	General Meeting Offering (\$149), Martha Mary (\$8), Taste of Tanzania (\$51)		\$ 208.00	\$ 256.92	
*	12/2/13	Christmas Tea Ticket Sales		\$ 455.00	\$ 711.92	
1594	12/8/13	Sandy Scalise - Christmas Tea Expense	\$ 151.66		\$ 560.26	
1593	12/8/13	Judie Symbol - Christmas Tea Expense	\$ 39.58		\$ 520.68	
*	1/6/14	From General Fund		\$ 30.00	\$ 550.68	
*	1/6/14	Christmas Tea Ticket Sales		\$ 155.00	\$ 705.68	

WELCA—FRIENDS BIBLE STUDY

This group of ladies meets on Monday from 12:30-2:00 p.m. The first part of the meeting time is used to get to know each other and to build a sense of trust as we share our life's concerns and joys. We develop friendships and become a support team for each member of the group.

We share concerns of people in our lives that are in need of prayers and include these people in our closing prayer as well as our daily prayers.

This year we studied the *Bad Girls of the Bible* and *What We Can Learn from Them* by Liz Curtis Higgs. Our study book enables us to do the lesson before class and helps to strengthen our daily study of the Word. Each person is encouraged to share her thoughts and interpretation of the lesson.

We are having fun studying the Bible together! We have learned that God wants to be our Best Friend and not be left out of the happenings in our daily lives. As we search the scriptures together, we are developing a closer relationship with each other and also with our God.

Romans 1:12: I'm eager to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours. In this way, each of us will be a blessing to the other.

1 Thess. 5:11: So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

A Friend is a gift you give yourself! You are invited to join us at any time and make new friends!

—*Barb Hoch*

Special Annual Report—Thrivent

The McHenry-Kane County Thrivent Unit supports Shepherd of the Prairie in many ways. Its most significant contributions are matching dollars for projects within the congregation. This year Thrivent supported Prayer Shawl and Prairie Point Quilters ministries with Care Abounds dollars of \$300 each. Yarn and rolls of quilting batting has been purchased to support those two projects. In addition \$1000.00 was given to our Youth Ministry because of their servant trip to Kentucky. Money was still available in November, so I requested \$500 for Grafton Food Pantry for Holiday Food Boxes. Alice Hallett stated that six volunteers from Shepherd of the Prairie helped pack those boxes on a Saturday late in Nov. She stated that probably the money was used to purchase food from Northern Illinois Food Bank, the depository that so many have volunteered at during the Mission Team's visits to Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva, IL. (five in all this year) How great is that?!! Dollars used for this purpose can increase in value 4-8 times more. That is what being a good steward is all about. Next year, I will apply for the prayer shawl and quilt ministries and of course work with the Youth program. In addition to this, many Choice Dollars went toward the Building Debt Reduction Program at Shepherd of the Prairie. Ralph Wehnes has reported on this program in our monthly newsletters. See him for more information. How else can we utilize these dollars? See me and I will see how we can put Thrivent Dollars to work.

—*Donna Sorensen*

Advocate for Thrivent

Property Ministries

Listed below are some of the accomplishments of the property team during the last year.

February

- Blinds were purchased and installed in the sanctuary

March,

- Spring cleaning of the interior of the church building

April

- The Chancel was designed and built in the sanctuary.
- Storage / music stands were built and installed for the Bell choir

June

- Damaged storm water drain was repaired under the parking lot

July

- Austin Schofield completed his Eagle scout project, building & donating to SOTP a beautiful outside storage building

October

- Prairie Garden was cut

December

- Additional stack chairs were purchased for the use of all the groups using SOTP facilities.

All the members of the Property Team have worked all year to make sure that all of the members & staff and the different church groups working at SOTP have a clean safe facility to meet and continue to do their important missions for our church.

God Bless

—*Jerry Christopherson*
Chairman, **Property Team**

Administrative Support Ministries

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Memorial Fund Committee Report 2013

The purpose of this committee is to record and acknowledge all gifts received from our members and friends of SOTP. Unless otherwise specified all monies received are allocated to the Building Fund. Family wishes for other purposes will be considered. Gifts may be made to SOTP in memory of loved ones; in celebration of a special occasion; or to honor individuals.

In 2013 the church received memorials totaling \$2515.00 for the Building Fund – Debt Reduction; and Prayer Shawl Ministry.

The memorials were received in loving memory of the following:

Helen Berry	Ron Butzen
Alma Hall (<i>Carolyn Malm's mother</i>)	Robert Fellows
Sue Dunn	Ruth Macauley
Robert Carlborg	Lorraine Quam's sister-in-law
Jim Morbeck	Fred Ziegler
Norma Davis	Glen McGivney
Joe Percival (<i>Joy Kruto's brother</i>)	John Turner

—*Susan Wehnes*
for the Memorial Committee

Congregation Support Ministries

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resource Ministry team has had a busy 2013. We updated and amended the positions of Office Manager, Lay Ministry Coordinator and Audio / Visual Team Leader. After posting the positions and interviewing candidates, these positions were filled by Judy Spencer, Donna Kelly and Greg Dowell respectively. Human Resource team also made changes to update the current Shepherd of the Prairie Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual in several areas to better fit the needs of our congregation and our personnel.

—*John Boehler*

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance committee was created to provide analytical and project support for the Church Council and the Church Treasurer. The committee is also responsible for reviewing the Audit Committee's report and ensuring that recommendations of the Audit Committee are implemented. The committee is comprised of individuals with a background in corporate finance. The current members of the Committee are:

- Devin Burg- Church Treasurer
- George Sebastian- Chairman
- Rich Juergensen
- Bud Hansen
- Don Schneider

In 2013 the committee worked on several major projects:

- **Refine the congregation's budgeting procedure.**
The 2014 Budget, developed in the fall of 2013, incorporated several procedural improvements that were designed to bring ministry leaders into the process and convey the need for ministry leaders to accept responsibility for the funds they request
- **Develop an outline of a congregation financial policy and procedure manual.**
We did not make as much progress in the development of the policy and procedures manual as we wanted. We were waiting until the accounting system transition to Church Windows was fully operational to develop policies and procedures that deal with the systems we will use going forward. In the process we also determined that outsourcing the Church's payroll function was appropriate and we are currently in the process of finalizing those procedures
- **Perform an inventory of key financial documents related to the congregation**
This is a work in process and now that we have completed the accounting system change and the outsourcing of the payroll function this will be a high priority project for 2014
- **Transition from "quicken" to "Church windows" accounting systems**
The transition to Church Windows is complete and the new system is working well

In addition several financial policy issues were researched and recommendations were given to the Treasurer and to the Church Council.

—*George Sebastian*

Finance Committee Chairman

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee met periodically during 2013. Our primary function was planning and overseeing the 2014 commitment program. We decided to run the program about the same as last year, utilizing four Church members with four temple talks. They were all from different perspectives and were well received. As of the end of December, we had received 222 pledges for the General Fund and 172 pledges for the Building Fund. The dollar amounts are \$443,854.00 for the General Fund and \$208,020.00 for the Building Fund. This is slightly higher than last year. We also received over \$26,000.00 from the green debt reduction envelopes in 2013. At the end of 2013 through the generous contributions of our Congregation the mortgage principal was reduced to \$932,992.67. That means we have cut the principal in half in four years. We also offered 4 "Charitable Giving" workshops in June and were disappointed with the turn out. We will consider offering a similar program again in 2014. We were encouraged when 12 additional homes signed up to use the "Simply Giving" program for their Church pledge. Presently there are 45 giving units using the EFT. I want to thank the members that volunteered to be offering counters. They spend 2-3 hours each Monday morning to make sure our contributions are counted, and deposited in the bank. I also want to thank the contribution secretary's that post the offerings to the correct accounts. And last but not least, the committee members; Jacque Stashwick, Enrique Rojas, Bob McDuffee.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Ralph Wehnes*

Stewardship Committee Chairman

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

2013 was the inaugural year for the Strategic Direction team. The foundation of the team started in February with the attendance of a seminar "Active God - Active Church." Pastor Dave Daubert was the leader of the Seminar. The seminar focused on the PAWN strategy.

P - Purpose

A - Assests

W - WOW!

N - Needs

The team consisting of Jessica Bussing, Marlene Boehler, Jules Pelka, Matt Greene, Jeff Cordle and council liaison Larry Newbanks met for the first time in April.

With the Purpose statement of the church in hand the team started right to work on formulating questions for the Community Leader interviews and Cottage Meetings. While the questions mostly focused on needs, the team was also able to obtain assets and WOW! moments. 15 community interviews were completed and 13 Cottage Meetings with roughly 150 participants were also completed. In an attempt to gauge how the congregation was understanding the purpose statement the team decided to ask two discipleship questions. Pastor Mark was kind to deliver the questions during weekend services. Over two hundred responses were received.

In November with the leadership of Pastor Dave Daubert the team, church council, ministry leaders (with council liaisons), employees and a few others that accepted our invitation gathered on a Saturday to start the process of disseminating all the data. By the end of the session we had arrived at 15 external and 15 internal directions. The Strategic Direction Team then narrowed those 30 directions down to 4 strategic directions.

In January of 2014 under the direction Pastor Dave Daubert the Strategic Direction team, Council, Ministry Leaders and employees will meet to start formulating a plan of action that will work with the strategic directions recommended by the Strategic direction team.

—*Jeff Cordle*

MUTUAL MINISTRY

Mutual Ministry is a small group of people who meet regularly with the Pastor Mark 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 and is attending continuing education opportunities. Each year Mutual Ministry prepares and distributes a survey to the staff and the congregation on the pastor's performance which is used as a part of his annual performance evaluation. This group also helps Pastor Mark establish meaningful goals at the beginning of each year. Mutual Ministry members are also available to the congregation for feedback or concerns specifically about the pastor or his ministry.

This year the team has focused on the submission of a grant to the Lilly Foundation for Pastor Mark's sabbatical. In August we found out it was not awarded to him this year. This year we will work with Pastor Mark on resubmitting.

The Mutual Ministry team is made up of five members serving in staggered three year terms; one member is a Council Liaison. The current team members are Rebecca Fulcer, Mike Hoch, Kathy McGuine (Council Liaison), Neal Mejdrich, and Jessica Panella (Chairperson).

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

Prayerfully submitted,

—*Jessica Panella*

Mutual Ministry Chairperson

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

NOMINATING TEAM MEMBERS

- Bonnie Bayser
- Steve Conway
- Rebecca Fulcer
- Sharon Little
- Kathy Pizzaro

COUNCIL NOMINEES – to be elected to serve a three year term ending January 2017

- Bob McDuffee (*2nd 3 year term*)
- Mike McCann (*2nd 3 year term*)
- Jim Henley (*1st 3 year term*)

2014 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- Theresa Molgren
- Don Koerner
- Carol Waxenberg
- Ron Mudge
- Pam Fender

AUDIT TEAM

- Jim Rice

SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

- Judie Symbol
- Nicholas Wolf

CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS AND TERMS

Years Remaining In Term	
1	2
Devin Burg (2)	Adam Adams (1)
Kathy McGuine (1)	Amy Britton (1)
Wayne Schmidt (1)	Larry Newbanks (2)

The number next to members name indicates current term of service. The length of council terms are three years and members are eligible to serve 2 consecutive terms.

2014 Budget

2014 Budget Page 1

	Budget 2014		Actual 2013
Income		Income	
Member Contributions	\$470,000	Member Contributions	\$454,741.37
Loose Plate & Growth	\$41,735	Loose Plate & Growth	\$27,198.47
Flowers	\$3,000	Flowers	\$2,735.00
Interest Income	\$600	Interest Income	\$229.11
Total Income	\$515,335	Total Income	\$484,903.95
Mission Ministry (Pastor Mark)		Mission Ministry (Pastor Mark)	
ELCA NI Synod 10%	\$47,000	ELCA NI Synod 10%	\$47,000.00
Local Mission 1%	\$4,700	Local Mission 1%	\$978.29
Good Samaritan	\$1,000	Good Samaritan	\$4,122.67
	\$52,700		\$52,100.96
Outreach Ministry (Donna Kelly)		Outreach Ministry (Donna Kelly)	
Outreach/Evangelism	\$6,000	Outreach/Evangelism	\$4,267.78
Advertising	\$5,000	Advertising	\$4,638.52
Misc. Outreach Expenses	\$500	Misc. Outreach Expenses	\$680.52
	\$11,500		\$9,586.82
Adult Education Ministry (Rev. Waxenberg)		Adult Education Ministry (Rev. Waxenberg)	
Adult Discipleship	\$2,000	Adult Discipleship	\$2,124.41
Small Group Ministries	\$400	Small Group Ministries	\$0.00
Retreats	\$1,000	Retreats	\$72.00
Other. Adult Christian Ed.	\$100	Other. Adult Christian Ed.	\$513.82
	\$3,500		\$2,710.23
Youth and Education Ministry (Greg Dowell)		Youth and Education Ministry (Greg Dowell)	
Youth Resources	\$2,500	Youth Resources	\$2,403.84
Youth Curriculum	\$1,000	Youth Curriculum	\$0.00
Trips	\$2,800	Trips	\$2,382.33
Retreats	\$1,500	Retreat	\$0.00
Software/Subscriptions	\$1,500	Software/Subscriptions	\$2,097.13
Confirmation	\$3,500	Confirmation	\$5,038.42
Sunday School	\$1,000	Sunday School	\$599.29
VBS	\$3,500	VBS	\$2,908.52
Other Youth and Education	\$800	Other Youth and Education	\$711.72
	\$18,100		\$16,141.25
Music Ministry (Jane McMullen)		Music Ministry (Jane McMullen)	
1st Service Music	\$300	1st Service Music	\$178.60
2nd Service Music	\$300	2nd Service Music	\$1,020.32
Adult Bell Choir	\$1,000	Adult Bell Choir	\$1,190.43
Children's Music Ministry	\$1,000	Children's Music Ministry	\$864.82
Adult Choir	\$1,000	Adult Choir	\$531.58
Youth Bell Special Music	\$1,000	Youth Bell Special Music	\$1,253.82
Special Music	\$6,500	Special Music	\$5,900.00
Piano Maintenance	\$700	Piano Maintenance	\$600.00
Bell Maintenance	\$250	Bell Maintenance	\$0.00
Licensing Fees	\$750	Licensing Fees	\$825.00
Misc. Music Expenses	\$300	Misc. Music Expenses	\$3,158.75
	\$13,100		\$15,523.32
Worship Ministry (Pastor Mark)		Worship Ministry (Pastor Mark)	
Flowers	\$3,000	Flowers	\$2,894.47
Altar Guild	\$1,000	Altar Guild	\$681.97
AV Ministry	\$1,500	AV Ministry	\$3,635.01
Pastoral Assistance	\$1,200	Pastoral Assistance	\$1,318.75
Worship Supplies	\$750	Worship Supplies	\$745.38
Misc. Worship Expenses	\$350	Misc. Worship Expenses	\$237.23
	\$7,800		\$9,512.81

2014 Budget (cont)

2014 Budget Page 2

	Budget 2014		Actual 2013
Facilities (Property Team)		Facilities (Property Team)	
Cleaning Service	\$7,500	Cleaning Service	\$6,505.00
Utilities	\$9,000	Utilities	\$7,823.69
Waste Removal	\$1,700	Waste Removal	\$1,881.71
Lawn Care/Snow Removal	\$7,000	Lawn Care/Snow Removal	\$4,829.00
Maintenance/Cleaning Supplies	\$750	Maintenance/Cleaning Supplies	\$398.22
Outside Contract Services	\$4,100	Outside Contract Services	\$4,759.39
Misc. Facilities Expenses	\$450	Misc. Facilities Expenses	\$1,077.96
	\$30,500		\$27,274.97
Office Expenses (Office Staff)		Office Expenses (Office Staff)	
Office Supplies	\$9,600	Office Supplies	\$8,038.43
Office Equipment	\$600	Office Equipment	\$2,748.36
Web/Software Expenses	\$1,500	Web/Software Expenses	\$2,963.26
Telephone Expense	\$2,400	Telephone Expense	\$2,029.30
Postage	\$2,000	Postage	\$967.01
Dues & Subscriptions	\$600	Dues & Subscriptions	\$0.00
Equipment Rental	\$7,000	Equipment Rental	\$7,897.04
Misc. Office Expenses	\$300	Misc. Office Expenses	\$2,795.90
	\$24,000		\$27,439.30
Staffing Ministry (Council/Finance Team)		Staffing Ministry (Council/Finance Team)	
Pastor Salary	\$53,333	Pastor Salary	\$51,774.54
Pastor Housing Allowance	\$32,960	Pastor Housing Allowance	\$31,999.92
Lay Ministry Coordinator	\$7,300	Lay Ministry Coordinator	\$1,891.25
Youth Ministry Coordinator	\$37,456	Youth Ministry Coordinator	\$36,364.98
Director of Music	\$32,225	Director of Music	\$31,286.19
Organist	\$12,731	Organist	\$12,315.00
Tech Support Manager	\$26,157	Tech Support Manager	\$26,183.23
Office Manager	\$13,349	Office Manager	\$10,383.20
Director of Adult Education	\$34,824	Director of Adult Education	\$33,809.70
Staff Training / Continuing Ed.	\$4,000	Staff Training / Continuing Ed.	\$2,987.80
Social Security	\$16,000	Social Security	\$11,129.75
Pastor Health Insurance & S.S.	\$43,000	Pastor Health Insurance & S.S.	\$42,631.63
Misc. Staff Expenses	\$2,500	Misc. Staff Expenses	\$1,593.72
AV Coordinator	\$7,200	AV Coordinator	\$7,219.58
Pastor's Continuing Ed.	\$1,000	Pastor's Continuing Ed.	\$0.00
Payroll Processing Expense	\$2,200	Payroll Processing Expense	\$191.60
	\$326,235		\$301,762.09
Other Church Expenses (Pastor Mark)		Other Church Expenses (Pastor Mark)	
Scholarships	\$1,200	Scholarships	\$0.00
Committee Expenses	\$3,000	Committee Expenses	\$2,558.42
Insurance	\$7,900	Insurance	\$3,950.00
Automobile Expenses	\$4,200	Automobile Expenses	\$5,302.99
Human Resources	\$500	Human Resources	\$150.00
Bank/Legal Expenses	\$600	Bank/Legal Expenses	\$733.28
Misc. Expenses	\$1,000	Misc. Expenses	\$1,034.58
	\$18,400		\$13,729.27
Providing for the Future (Council/Finance Team)		Providing for the Future 9Council/Finance Team)	
Provision for Outreach Programs	\$750	Provision for Outreach Programs	\$750.00
Provision for Inreach Programs	\$550	Provision for Inreach Programs	\$172.93
Provision for Equipment	\$1,000	Provision for Equipment	\$1,000.00
Provision for Maintenance	\$3,000	Provision for Maintenance	\$3,000.00
Provision for Sabbatical	\$1,200	Provision for Sabbatical	\$1,200.00
Provision for Building & Grounds	\$3,000	Provision for Building & Grounds	\$3,000.00
	\$9,500		\$9,122.93
Total Expenses	\$515,335	Total Expenses	\$484,903.95
Net Income	\$0	Net Income	\$0.00