



Shepherd  
OF THE PRAIRIE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Annual Report

January 25, 2015

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

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## Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

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# Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

### Annual Meeting Agenda January 25, 2015

I. Call to Order

II. Quorum Call

III. Opening Prayer

IV. Looking Back

1. Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2014 (*page 5*)
2. Approval of Committee and Ministry Reports (*page 40*)
3. Approval of 2014 Financial Reports (*page 24*)
4. Recognition of Outgoing Council Members  
Kathy McGuine and Wayne Schmidt

V. Celebration of Ministry - Video

VI. Looking Ahead

1. Purpose Statement, Guiding Principles and Strategic Directions (*page 10*)
2. Staffing Introductions
3. January 19 Leadership Retreat Update

VII. Elections (*page 61*)

1. Election of Audit Team Member
2. Election of 2015 Nominating Team
3. Election of Voting Members to the Northern IL Synod Assembly
4. Election of New Council Members

VIII. Approval of 2015 Budget (*page 63*)

IX. Special motion to set aside funds for building

- A motion is made to set aside funds for the future building addition of the church. Building fund income received by the church greater than what is required to pay the current mortgage monthly payment may be used for future building needs of the congregation. Monies designated for debt reduction would still be used only for the purpose of paying down principal of the current mortgage.

X. For Discussion:

- Change the quorum for congregation meetings from 20% to 10% of the confirmed members of the congregation. (*page 62*)

XI. Prayer and Adjournment

# Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Annual Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2015

Called to order – 11:54 AM

- Quorum required is 127. In attendance: 128
- Teller – Rich Juergensen, Don Schneider
- Parliamentarian – Larry Newbanks

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Mark

### **Looking Back**

A motion to approve minutes from 2014 annual meeting was made by John Boehler, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna Kelly. Voted on and approved.

### **Committee and Ministry Reports**

Motion to accept the reports were made by Marlene Boehler. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ferdie Kimminau. Voted on and approved.

### **2014 Financial Reports**

Financial updates provided by Jim Henley.

#### **Building Fund**

- We started 2014 with a loan balance of \$921,896.32 and ended the year with a balance of \$687,915.39 which resulted in a total principal reduction of \$233,980.93 for 2014.
- Additional principal reductions were made throughout the year while maintaining a minimum of 4 full monthly payments in reserve.
- While our focus has been to pay this loan down as soon as feasible, perhaps now we should review expansion plans to further our Church's ministry efforts

#### **Balance Sheet**

- We ended 2014 with a strong cash position. We have \$44,385.81 in unrestricted funds, \$52,997.21 in Restricted Funds, and \$68,461.09 in our Reserve Accounts.
- We finished 2014 with operating income exceeding operating expenses by \$10,480.89. We applied this surplus to our reserve accounts which are dedicated reserves for unexpected expenses. After accounting for the designation of the reserve accounts, our 2014 reflects a balanced budget.

#### **Balance Sheet**

- Our Income Statement shows \$532,815.16 which reflects an increase in total income compared to \$484,903.95 collected in 2013. The finance team made a change in how we manage prepaid pledges in 2013 that impacted this total income number by approximately \$15,566.60 and Building Fund \$6,533.40. 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 over budget. The primary cause for this was the extreme snow events we had in 2014 and an equipment rental not accurately budgeted for the full year. Our positive difference for the year allowed us to add an additional \$10,480.89 to our Provision accounts after we had fully funded the budgeted \$9,500.00 for 2014.

- You may notice there are several individual categories that may have ended the year under budget, and others that were over budget. We continued to work on procedures to improve the accuracy of placing expenses in the proper categories. We have to congratulate our ministry team leaders, our staff, and Pastor Mark for managing and controlling the expenses in a faithful fiduciary capacity. The Finance Committee was extremely diligent in questioning all expense categories and income projections.

Motion to accept the 2014 Financial Reports by Claudia Morgan. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chuck Peterson. Motion voted on and approved.

### **Outgoing Council Member Recognized**

Wayne Schmidt and Kathy McGuine

### **Celebration of Ministry – Video**

### **Election of Audit Team Member**

- Phil Turk

Motion to elect Phil Turk as Audit Team member by Carol Waxenberg. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Solem. Motion voted on and approved.

### **Election of 2015 Nominating Team**

- Mary Conti, Renae Greene, Kathy McGuine, Roy Rankin, Jim Rhode, Wayne Schmidt

Motion to approve Mary, Renae, Kathy, Roy, Jim and Wayne as the 2015 Nominating Team by Noreta Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Judy Petropolis . Motion voted on and approved.

### **Election of Voting Members to the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly**

- Jamie Patel and Steve Lagel

Motion to approve Jamie and Steve as Voting Members to the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly by Carl Hupert. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich Willie. Motion voted on and approved.

### **Election of New Council Members**

- Marlene Boehler, Matt Greene, Cliff Dungey

Motion to approve Marlene, Matt and Cliff as Council Members by Sandy Hupert. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Trodahl. Motion voted on and approved.

### **2015 Budget Highlights**

Jim Henley provided 2015 budget comments and summary.

- Recognition of Finance Team and staff in assisting in the budget process.
- The finance team and the council believe this is a supportable budget with sufficient contingencies available if giving doesn't reach our goal. This budget was built through interviews and follow up meetings with each staff member, Pastor Mark, Ministry Team Leads, Stewardship Team Lead, Finance Committee, and multiple meetings with Council before final draft presented to the Congregation.

A motion to approve the 2015 budget made by Adam Adams, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alice Hallett. Voted on and approved.

### **Special motion to set aside funds for building**

- A motion is made to set aside funds for the future building addition of the church. Building fund income received by the church greater than what is required to pay the current mortgage monthly payment may be used for future building needs of the congregation. Monies designated for debt reduction would still be used only for the purpose of paying down principal of the current mortgage.

Motion to approve by Donna Kelly. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sandy Hupert. Motion voted on and approved.

### **For Discussion:**

- Change the quorum for congregation meetings from 20% to 10% of the confirmed members of the congregation.

### **Comments from the floor:**

- Marlene Boehler inquired why congregational meeting is in January. This timeframe is a requirement of our constitution.
- Marina Rhodes inquired what average % for quorum among most congregations. Pastor Mark mentioned most congregations were 5 or 10%.
- Kris Fleener asked why the change not effective until May. Pastor Mark informed the congregation that it takes 120 days' notice and approval by synod.
- There was also discussion about absentee voting and clarified that this is not currently permitted according to the ELCA.
- Alternative methods of voicing opinions for everyone in and out of attendance were also discussed. Suggestion box was suggested and then a comment was made by Larry Newbanks that any congregation member can reach council, ministry leaders or Pastor Mark at any time. Bob Malm also reminded everyone in attendance of the "Dude, How Are We Doing?" link in the Friday Flourish every week.
- Pastor Mark clarified that a voting member must be confirmed and has made a gift of record of at least \$150 in the prior year.

Motion to approve by Jim Rhode. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ferdie Kimminau. Motion voted on and approved.

Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

Meeting adjourned – 12:58pm

Submitted by,  
Mike McCann

# Shepherd of the Prairie Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes January 26, 2014

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## 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ferdie Kimminau.

#### Committee and Ministry Reports

Motion to accept the reports was made by Kathy Pizarro, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 leaders 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Noretta Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

# Pastor's Report to the Congregation

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## January 2015

Thank you for another wonderful year, serving alongside of you in ministry at Shepherd of the Prairie. We continue to be blessed by God in so many ways. One of those blessings is the offering of lives committed to servant leadership in and through the church. Thanks to one and all for your part in making Christ known through your church and community of faith.

I was especially thankful this year for the good work that has been accomplished through our strategic direction process (an updated copy of the strategic direction follows my report). This has been a valuable tool in helping shape and focus where we believe God is leading the church. We had excellent input by so many of our members in helping craft these directions and they continue to prove invaluable in our visioning for the future. Please take time to look over what has been done over the past year.

A focus on mission continues to serve as a catalyst for ministry within the church. We are a community of faith that seeks to ask the question how do we continue to prepare for those who have yet to walk through the doors of the church as well as what can we do to serve those in need who are our neighbors. Shepherd of the Prairie was founded on the principle of "not for ourselves but for whom God calls us to serve." I am so grateful for the strong missional spirit of the church that continues to so mightily care for God's children in need.

A big thank you to our great staff who make ministry both enjoyable and productive. We are so blessed with servant hearted leaders that give so generously of themselves to the work of the church. This year we brought on to our staff two new team members. We welcomed Michelle Rankin as our Office Manager and Donna Kelly as our New Member/Lay Involvement Coordinator. Please continue to support with your prayers our fine church staff.

As we begin a New Year together I would like to remind you of SOTP's statement of Purpose.

### **"Caring for God's children of all ages, by growing disciples who make disciples."**

We tend to remember and focus on the first part of the statement and boy do we do a lot of "caring" around here on a regular basis.

This year I would like to challenge us to focus on the second part. The discipleship making component of the statement.

How is a disciple made? Or maybe we should ask, "How does a seed sprout and grow?" There is a certain mystery in all of this. How does the Kingdom of God grow? You remember Jesus telling us it grows like a mustard seed. It's in-significant and small yet becomes the greatest of all shrubs. How does it do that?

Most of us don't know, yet it happens anyway, with-out our knowledge and intellect. Jesus spoke in parables so that what was impossible to see becomes visible and possible to discern. So Je-sus says the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed.

How is a disciple made? According to St. Paul, a disciple of Jesus is like an adopted child. Disciples are made by adoption. The adoption comes from God. So disciples are made by "the good pleasure of God's will" (Eph. 1:5b). It seems that the business of being a disciple of Jesus happens to us because of God's action and will.

Has it sunk in that God has adopted us? It is worth considering. Any child who has been adopted into a family knows that the action of the parents to adopt creates the setting and relationship into which the child can explore being loved and cared for. Out of the adoptive parent's will and love toward the child grows the love of the child for the adoptive parents. The adoptive parents choose to adopt. That's also how it is for us in our relationship with God.

How might we live as God's disciples? St Paul again offers us some clues. First he lays out the gift given us as adopted children. It is an inheritance of redemption. And so we praise God. Paul then reminds us to live "a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called" (Ephesians 4:1b). He says we are called to live "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2).

The behaviors of how we live and treat others surely reflect a life of gratitude toward God. So Paul says it is our duty to be "making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). The Christ Child was born to bring peace on earth. We disciples of The Prince of Peace are called to be at peace with one another.

I pray we continue to grow in faith and continue to use the tools (vibrant worship, engaging Christian based study, opportunities to serve, getting together with other believers and opportunities to give generously) offered to us through Shepherd of the Prairie. These are offerings available to us through a community of faith. Use them well in your journey of faith.

## **Statement Of Purpose**

"We care for God's children of all ages  
by growing disciples who make disciples"

## **Guiding Principles**

We do our best when we...

**Listen to God**

*Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. -Proverbs 16:3*

**Welcome Enthusiastically**

*Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me. - Matthew 10:40*

**Teach the Life and love of Jesus**

*They begged him just to let them touch his clothes, and they were healed. Matthew 14:36*

**Encourage and equip everyone to make a difference in God's world**

*And now you are living stones that being used to build a spiritual house - 1 Peter 2:5*

On His Journey



—Pastor Mark

# Shepherd of the Prairie 2014 Goals supporting Strategic Direction

## Be a catalyst for creating community partnerships that care for people in need

### **WHAT:**

Initiate contact with community leaders to develop partnerships that provide services to people in our community in need.

- 17 Mar: Pastor Mark and Larry had lunch with one of the community leaders that was interviewed by the Strategic Direction team and shared SOTP Strategic Directions.
- 21 Apr: Larry to meet this Thursday (4/24) with Community Leaders.
- *Rescheduled to May 22.*
- 19 May: Meeting with community leader on Thursday (5/22)
- 16 June: Meeting with community leaders to be held in August.
- 21 July: On track for August meeting.
- 18 Aug: Larry to initiate contact with meeting attendees regarding next steps.
- 15 Sept: Pastor Mark to be attending a meeting with local leaders on Wednesday (9/17)
- 20 Oct: Pastor Mark to continue meeting with local leaders.

### **How:**

- Contact previous interviewees to formulate a plan of action
- *Report back to council on plan/feedback proposed by community leaders*

### **WHO:**

- Larry Newbanks and Jim Henley
- SOTP Staff Support – Pastor Mark  
*NOTE: More resources anticipated once action plans are developed*

### **WHEN:**

Feedback anticipated to be available for April Council Meeting Review.

### **RATIONALE:**

This is only a first step. Specific needs and plan of attack are uncertain until after we receive interviewee feedback

# **Promote the well-being of area children, youth and young adults through identification and facilitation of community programming**

**(1) Create homework/tutoring center**

**(2) Plan Monthly (or Bi-monthly/Quarterly) Parent Information Night**

## **WHAT:**

**(1) Create homework/tutoring center**

- 21 Apr: In Reach team Created task force to Create plan for tutoring center including schedule, roles/responsibilities/expectations for students and tutors
- Will start internally to see how it goes with the thought we could go externally
- Tutors to be identified by the end of summer
- 19 May: One tutor interested so far and to continue to contact possibilities.
- 16 June: Ongoing work on recruiting tutors.
- 21 July: Team in holding pattern currently.
- 18 Aug: Team moving forward with identifying students interested in the program as well as identifying students and adults available for tutoring. Background checks to be given to all potential tutors.
- 15 Sept: In holding pattern to meet with tutors.
- 20 Oct: Still awaiting response from possible students.

## **How:**

- Determine needs for tutoring
- Find volunteers who are willing and able to tutor
- Obtain background checks on adult tutors
- Set schedule
- Establish age range
- Advertise
- Research SOTP liability
- Identify coordinator
- Set guidelines for tutoring – Behavior, discipline, materials, etc.

## **WHO:**

In-Reach team

## **WHEN:**

End of March 2014

## **RATIONALE:**

Since parents struggle with helping their children with homework and students sometimes require additional help with what they are learning, our community can benefit from SOTP providing a place where parents and students can turn to attain assistance in reinforcing what is learned in school.

**WHAT:****(2) Plan Monthly (or Bi-monthly/Quarterly) Parent Information Night**

- 21 Apr: Target start date in the fall/start of school year.
- 19 May: On track for September start.
- 21 July: Chuck and Sharon Little have offered to start Active Christian Parenting Program. 10 week program on Wednesday nights revolving around communication with children. Recruiting 2 assistant leaders as well. Tentative start date will be the 4<sup>th</sup> week in September.
- 18 Aug: Temporarily on hold.
- 15 Sept: Currently planning on having the Active Christian Parenting Program kicked off in the spring.
- 20 Oct: Parenting Program now likely to occur in the Fall of 2015.

**How:**

- Find experts on a variety of topics
- Set a schedule of monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly forums based on experts availability and number available

**WHO:**

Greg Dowell, Bill Waxenberg, Adam Adams

**WHEN:**

Coincide with 2014/2015 school year (plan to begin September 2014)

**RATIONALE:**

With so many issues facing parents today, we could benefit the community by providing a forum where experts on youth culture can speak to parents about their field of expertise, answer questions from parents and give practical advice and direction.

# Invite People into life-giving participation in the community of faith

- (1) Develop a church-wide study of a topic or book to help facilitate connections
- (2) Plan a social Event over the summer to continue Wed. Night dinner fellowship (game night)
- (3) Train and equip 'ambassadors' who will watch for and introduce themselves to people they don't know; especially new visitors. When new visitors are identified they will make sure to continue to greet them and invite them to participate in activities, etc.

## **What:**

### **(1) Develop a church-wide study of a topic or book to help facilitate connections**

- 17 Mar: Met 4 times
- This will be a Cottage Meeting type of format
- Looking at candidate books for summer book read
- Tentative kickoff date for host families is 1 Jun
- 9 – 13 people per group (will be open to entire congregation)
- 21 Apr: Book has been selected for study and will be ordered on 5/14.
- 19 May: June 1<sup>st</sup> targeted start date still in effect. Focus on personal invitations before the kickoff of the reading.
- 16 June: Small groups are now meeting and discussing the book.
- 21 July: Small groups meeting and will continue to meet through the summer.
- 18 Aug: Final meeting will be Sept. 7
- 15 Sept: Potluck dinner took place and some small groups are beginning another reading. Discussed the possibility of a creating a task force to identify books for the groups to read on a going forward basis.
- 20 Oct: Groups continue to meet. Another kickoff planned for next year.

## **How:**

- Start with the cottage groups as a framework and invite others to join those groups.
- Create new groups as necessary

## **Who:**

Matt Greene, Pastor Bill and Pastor Mark will choose and develop the study

## **When:**

June 1 to be kickoff date and through the summer months

**WHAT:**

**(2) Plan a social Event over the summer to continue Wed. Night dinner fellowship (game night)**

- 17 Mar: Adam is working with Greg and Kathy to identify a format
  - Goal: provide options that appeal to different age groups
- 21 July: August 1<sup>st</sup> Movie on the Prairie to occur.
- 18 Aug: Movie night occurred and was well attended.
- 4 Sept: A 2nd event to be planned on October 10 (Chili Cheesecake contest).
- 20 Oct: Excellent turnout for the Chili Cheesecake contest.

**How:**

21 Apr: Still being discussed. Options are game nights, movie nights, etc.

**WHO:**

Adam Adams will begin the program

**WHEN:**

Through Summer months (one Wed. night per month)

**WHAT:**

**(3) Train and equip ‘ambassadors’ who will watch for and introduce themselves to people they don’t know; especially new visitors. When new visitors are identified they will make sure to continue to greet them and invite them to participate in activities, etc.**

- 21 Apr: Adam Adams to talk to Donna and Don about the book possibilities.
- 21 July: Donna to focus when her additional hours with church begin. (Aug. 1)
- 18 Aug: Donna transitioning into role.
- 15 Sept: Encouraging new members to attend the social events (ie. Chili Cheesecake night, Oct 10)
- 20 Oct: Chili cheesecake event was a success. Will discuss this topic at the January leadership meeting.

**How:**

Begin with 10 – 12 people (i.e. existing Prairie Guides) who will be trained to connect weekly and most importantly in prayer

**WHO:**

Donna Kelly / Don Schneider

**WHEN:**

June



# Encourage spiritual growth that changes lives and raises up leaders for the church and the world

- (1) Define Spiritual Leadership
- (2) Nurture existing leaders

## **WHAT:**

### **(1) Define Spiritual Leadership**

- 17 Mar: Mike was surprised by the number of responses he received on potential leaders for the SOTP (80 candidates)
  - Plan to send out invitations to candidates by mid-April
- 21 Apr: Will be ordering 25 books. Have approximately 20 to 25 confirmations of attendees.
- 19 May: Kickoff meeting went well. Approximately 25 attendees. Still working on what to do on the closing session.
- 16 June: 30 day leadership read has been completed. Another session to be considered for a fall session.
- 21 July: Book reading complete. To hold possible new session in February '15 timeframe.
- 20 Oct: New session tentatively scheduled for March or April '15.

## **HOW:**

- Establish a focus/pilot group
- Find materials: Books, webinars, classes to review as a group

## **WHO:**

- Mike McCann / Pastor Mark / Pastor Bill
- Identify a focus group leader
- Pastor Dave Daubert has recommended material

## **WHEN:**

Kickoff meeting to be held on May 30th

## **RATIONALE:**

Clarify 'Spiritual Leader'

How can we raise up leaders if we can't define

**WHAT:****(2) Nurture existing leaders**

- 17 Mar: Nothing to report
- 21 July: Donna having discussions with existing leaders.
- 15 Sept: Donna to meet with council in November to discuss her learnings from her conference she attended in Colorado.

**HOW:**

- Make personal contact with each leader – ask!
- Give them an ‘out’ – define

**WHO / WHEN:**

Donna Kelly currently interviewing leaders of the church

**RATIONALE:**

Sense that some leaders may not be happy in their existing roles

## Director of Adult Education

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*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.... (Ephesians 1:3)*

What a good place to begin an annual report: to be among God's people (both staff and congregation) who have received so many spiritual blessings: the Word, the Sacraments, music that declares the glory of God, a strong youth ministry and prayer life, a passion for outreach, and hearts to study who this God is and how our Lord works among us. This is life at Shepherd of the Prairie.

And to be a part of that—what a blessing! We began the year in adult education by focusing on Church history from our beginning at Pentecost up to who we are today. 2000 years—that's a lot of territory to cover! We divided our study into two sections, interspersed by the season of Lent when we immersed ourselves in a study of God's amazing grace.

No classes were held during the summer months, but time was used to prepare for fall. Initially this preparation was to be conducted for a trip to Luther's Germany. However, we discovered that many of the Luther sites were closed for renovation in preparation for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. Thus, our trip was cancelled, or better, postponed until 2018, when we hope to try again.

Autumn brought with it a six-week study of the Gospel according to John, which was followed by "Six Core Lutheran Values". Here we asked the question: what are those beliefs that we cherish as Lutheran Christians?

In addition, I was scheduled to meet with our ministry team leaders four times during the year, but three of those times were pre-empted by more pressing needs. I'm scheduled to meet with our leaders four times in 2015 (in March, May, September, and November) when we'll explore key leadership qualities, using biblical characters as our models.

At the beginning of this New Year, we'll hear from the Old Testament prophets, especially the prophet Isaiah. During Lent we'll use a video series titled, "The Path to the Cross", and then the Easter season will bring us a study of the last book of the Bible: Revelation.

Coming this fall will be an opportunity for parents to participate in a new series: Active Christian Parenting along with another Bible study. Plan now to join us!

We'll have a new schedule from January through May: Sunday mornings at 10:30, Wednesday mornings at 11:00, and Wednesday evenings at 6:30. All are invited! And feel free to move from one time to another as your schedule allows.

Once again, it is a great blessing to be among you as a teaching pastor. Thank you for your support and for the opportunity to study God's Word together!

—*Pastor Bill Waxenberg*

**Director of Adult Education**

## **Lay Ministry/New Member Coordinator**

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2014 has been an exciting year! In August I retired from the Insurance industry and started here at SOTP on an expanded basis. Led by God and your encouragement, that was one of the best decisions I have ever made. It has been exciting and challenging to serve in this ministry position.

This year we hosted four New Member Gatherings; in February, May, August and November where we welcomed 67 Adults and 31 children into our family here at SOTP. These new members have become integral parts of this ministry and no longer seem to be new members, but old friends and partners.

In September I was blessed to be able to attend an Equipping Institute at Group Publishing in Loveland, Colorado on making our ministry an equipping ministry. By equipping ministry I mean a ministry of discipleship that grows people, enabling them to be focused outward, serving beyond the walls of SOTP; so that instead of “doing church” we are “BEING church” to each other and the world at large.

In that vein we have worked this fall to find new ways to integrate our newest partners into service and to form all into a ministry partnership that intentionally cares for people and facilitates spiritual growth and transformation. There have been many changes in leadership positions this year but God has always moved in one of his people to step into the vacant role. We are consciously working on trying to help others discover their gifts and to match people’s talents, gifts and passions to their ministry choices rather than simply trying to “fill slots”.

As I look forward to this coming year, I pray that the hopes and dreams mentioned above become more and more of a reality in our ministry here at SOTP. I also pray that we can all answer God’s call to work in partnership together as we continue to “grow disciples that make disciples”.

—*Donna Kelly*

**Lay Ministry/New Member Coordinator**

# 2014 Youth and Family Ministry Annual Report

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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 2014 Accomplishments

- 21 Students confirmed in Rite of Affirmation of Baptism
- 69 Students enrolled in Confirmation
- Changed confirmation curriculum from "Here We Stand" to "re:form" a more engaging curriculum from Sparkhouse Publishing, part of Augsburg Fortress.
- Taught 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students in sanctuary
- Taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in large Sunday School room
- Used every room in church (including sanctuary) for small groups
- 50 Confirmation participants attended 2014 Fall Confirmation Retreat at Lutheran Outdoors Ministries Center in Oregon, Illinois
- Each confirmation small group volunteers on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month to help Alice Hallett collect food pantry offerings, transport and stock Grafton Food Pantry.
- Re:refresh focused on Understanding the Bible as an ongoing narrative story and love story from God.
- Held Fall Family Night at Richardson Corn Maze
- Youth collected and packed 211 (a new record!) boxes for Operation Christmas Child
- 41 participants attended Creation Restoration 4.0 Cody, Wyoming for 3 days of backpacking and adventure in Yellowstone National Park and 4 days of service in Cody.
- Trivia Night fundraiser for Creation Restoration 4.0 was a huge success!
- 20 students and 5 adults volunteered for Lifest, the three day Christian music festival in Osh Kosh, Wisconsin. Approximately 30,000 plastic bottles were recycled, saving our landfills.
- 140 young people attended Vacation Bible School with almost 80 volunteers to support.

## Looking forward to in 2015

- Attending Feed My Starving Children in February and April, 2014
- Creation Restoration 5.0 mission trip in June. Heading back to Kentucky for some home repair and a wilderness adventure.
- Planning for Trivia Night for Creation Restoration 5.0.
- Continuing our partnership with Lifest to handle their recycling.
- Confirming 18 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in Rite of Affirmation of Baptism
- Looking for additional volunteers to help lead our high school and engage more of our adults in ministry.
- Vacation Bible School with the theme of Everest will be held July 27<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

—*Greg Dowell*  
**Director of Youth & Family Ministries**

# Congregation Council Report

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The Strategic Development Team formed in 2013 presented findings from many community interviews, discipleship questions, cottage meetings and surveys to the Council, Staff and key Ministry leaders in Nov. 2013. Multiple ideas, goals and projects came out of this meeting which were then reviewed and consolidated during the annual January retreat to define specific Strategic Direction and Goals for 2014.

The Council reviewed these Strategic Directions and Projects at our February meeting to finalize and begin putting into motion for 2014. It is important to note that the Strategic Directions are NOT Goals rather Directions to help guide SOTP over the next 5+ years. The goals support the Strategic Directions with specific actives to be accomplished in 2014.

The following are the 4 Key Strategic Directions followed by specific goals we focused on this year:

## **Be a catalyst for creating community partnerships that care for people in need**

Initiate contact with community leaders to develop partnerships that provide services to people in our community in need.

- *Pastor Mark met with local community leaders, including area clergy in September, at a meeting facilitated by Superintendent Burkey from D158. These leaders began discussions on creating partnerships and will meet again in early 2015 to continue this process.*

## **Promote the well-being of area children, youth and young adults through identification and facilitation of community programming**

Create homework/tutoring center

- *Several tutors have volunteered their services and we've had a few students sign up for tutoring. The hope is to continue this program and expand as we grow*

Plan Monthly (or Bi-monthly/Quarterly) Parent Information Night

- *Active Christian Parenting Program is planned to start in the Fall of 2015*

## **Invite People into life-giving participation in the community of faith**

Develop a church-wide study of a topic or book to help facilitate connections

- *Multiple Small Groups met throughout the summer following a kick off potluck to discuss the book: 'The Question that never goes away...Why' written by Philip Yancey. The program ended with a potluck in early September. Based on the positive responses from the participants this summer, plans are being made to offer a similar program in 2015.*

Plan a Social Event over the summer to continue Wed. Night dinner fellowship (game night)

- *Social events held throughout the year included a movie night in August, 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Chili / Cheesecake Cook-off, and Thanksgiving Eve Piefest*

Train and equip 'ambassadors' who will watch for and introduce themselves to people they don't know; especially new visitors. When new visitors are identified they will make sure to continue to greet them and invite them to participate in activities, etc.

- *This goal is a work in progress and will continue to be a focus for the council in 2015.*

**Encourage spiritual growth that changes lives and raises up leaders for the church and the world**

Define Spiritual Leadership

- *A 30 day leadership program was held for 25 potential leaders of SOTP in May facilitated by Pastor Bill and Mike McCann. Another program is planned to be held in March or April 2015.*

Nurture existing leaders

- *Donna Kelly shared learnings from a leadership retreat she attended with the Council, Staff and Key Ministry leaders at the January 19 retreat.*

Shepherd of the Prairie is blessed to have a caring, committed congregation that actively seeks to makes the lives of everyone around them better on a daily basis.

—*Bob McDuffee*

**Council President**

# 2014 Year End Treasurer's Report

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Financial update provided by Jim Henley.

## **Building Fund:**

1. We started 2014 with a loan balance of \$921,896.32, and ended the year with a balance of \$687,915.39 this resulted in a total principal reduction of \$233,980.93 for 2014.
2. Additional principal reductions were made throughout the year while maintaining a minimum of 4 full monthly payments in reserve.
3. While our focus has been to pay this loan down as soon as feasible. Perhaps now, we should review expansion plans to further our Church's ministry efforts.

## **General Fund:**

### **Balance Sheet:**

4. We ended 2014 with a strong cash position. We have \$44,385.81 in unrestricted funds, \$52,997.21 in Restricted Funds, and \$68,461.09 in our Reserve Accounts.
5. We finished 2014 with operating income exceeding operating expenses by \$10,480.89. We applied this surplus to our reserve accounts which are dedicated reserves for unexpected expenses. After accounting for the designation of the reserve accounts, our 2014 reflects a balanced budget.

### **Treasurer's Report (Income Statement):**

6. Our Income Statement shows \$532,815.16 which reflects an increase in total income compared to \$484,903.95 collected in 2013. The finance team made a change in how we manage prepaid pledges in 2013 that impacted this total income number by approximately \$15,566.60 and Building Fund \$6,533.40. 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.
7. Expenses for the year were over budget. The primary cause for this was the extreme snow events we had in 2014 and an equipment rental not accurately budgeted for the full year. Our positive Difference for the year allowed us to add an additional \$10,480.89 to our Provision accounts after we had fully funded the budgeted \$9,500.00 for 2014.
8. You may notice there are several individual categories that may have ended the year under budget, and others that were over budget. We continued to work on procedures to improve the accuracy of placing expenses in the proper categories. We have to congratulate our ministry team leaders, our staff, and Pastor Mark for managing and controlling the expenses in a faithful fiduciary capacity. The Finance Committee was extremely diligent in questioning all expense categories and income projections.



## 2014 Year End Treasurer's Report *(cont)*

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### **2015 Budget:**

The finance team and the council believe this is a supportable budget with sufficient contingencies available if giving doesn't reach our goal. This budget was built through interviews and follow up meetings with each staff member, Pastor Mark, Ministry Team Leads, Stewardship Team Lead, Finance Committee, and multiple meetings with Council before final draft presented to Congregation.

### **Footnotes to budget:**

1. Member Contributions are calculated based on pledges received and historical giving patterns.
2. Miscellaneous Income in 2014 was significantly higher than normal due to a one time adjustment from prior years.
3. ELCA Northern Illinois Synod Mission is 10% of member contributions.
4. Good Samaritan assistance will be provided from the separate Good Samaritan Restricted Fund.
5. Local Mission is 1% of member contributions. Does not include special offerings.
6. Outreach/Evangelism also draws from the separate Outreach/Evangelism Restricted Fund.
7. The Saturday Service Organist expense has been moved to Staffing Ministry and added to the Organist Expense.
8. Equipment Rental (Copy Machine Lease) was inadequately budgeted in 2014.
9. Lay Ministry Coordinator's hours have increased from 10-15 hrs./week to 25 hrs./week.
10. Organist salary includes Saturday Services previously paid from Music budget.
11. Human Resources has contracted with ADP for one year to review and update our employment policies and compliance.
12. Though this budget shows a deficit of \$13,425.00 (2% of Expenses), the actual outcome is dependent on many factors. Income may well exceed our expectations, as it did in 2014.

### **Contingencies:**

Leadership and Staff will carefully monitor expenses and make adjustments as necessary.

Reserves are adequate to cover this relatively small deficit if necessary.

**From the Finance Committee and myself we thank the entire congregation for your faithful and generous support of the mission of Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church.**

Jim Henley  
Treasurer

Don Schneider  
Finance Committee Chair

# Financial Reports

**Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL**  
**Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2014**

**Friday, January 02, 2015**

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Previous Year Balance
<b>Assets</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
1.100.000	Heartland Bank Checking	12,857.69	178,147.53	176,769.16
1.200.000	Mission Plus Building Fund Checking	(50,080.36)	68,877.94	66,788.65
1.250.000	HBT/LPL Investment Account	0.00	20.55	N/A
1.400.000	Heartland Bank Youth Account Checking	0.00	6,569.03	4,698.32
	<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>(\$37,222.67)</b>	<b>\$253,615.05</b>	<b>\$248,256.13</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
1.300.000	Building & Grounds	0.00	1,980,000.00	1,980,000.00
	<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,980,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,980,000.00</b>
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>(\$37,222.67)</b>	<b>\$2,233,615.05</b>	<b>\$2,228,256.13</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
2.000.000	Accounts Payable/Vendors	0.00	0.00	(904.18)
2.100.000	Prepaid Pledges	13,863.00	13,863.00	22,100.00
	<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$13,863.00</b>	<b>\$13,863.00</b>	<b>\$21,195.82</b>
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>				
2.200.200	MIF Commercial Loan Payable	(83,751.21)	687,915.39	921,896.32
	<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>(\$83,751.21)</b>	<b>\$687,915.39</b>	<b>\$921,896.32</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>(\$69,888.21)</b>	<b>\$701,778.39</b>	<b>\$943,092.14</b>
<b>Fund Balances &amp; Equity</b>				
<b>Unrestricted Fund Balances</b>				
3.100.000	General Fund Balance	(19,821.49)	44,385.81	50,898.66
	<b>Total Unrestricted Fund Balances</b>	<b>(\$19,821.49)</b>	<b>\$44,385.81</b>	<b>\$50,898.66</b>
<b>Temporary Restricted Fund Balances</b>				
3.170.000	Special Services Fund Balance	506.00	1,650.00	5,745.95
3.175.000	Memorial Fund Balance	1,025.00	1,100.00	1,364.61
3.180.000	Grafton Food Pantry Fund Balance	120.00	725.00	510.00
3.200.000	Heifer Fund Balance	6.26	1,105.74	819.96
3.210.000	Grant Fund Balance	0.00	255.00	255.00
3.220.000	AV Ministry Fund Balance	0.00	1,496.33	22.18
3.250.000	Good Samaritan Fund Balance	(1,190.00)	3,437.67	2,646.15
3.260.000	Evangelism/Outreach Fund Balance	243.81	6,912.77	3,723.71
3.300.000	Music Ministry Fund Balance			

## Financial Reports *(cont)*

### Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2014

Friday, January 02, 2015

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Previous Year Balance
3.330.000	Adult Music Ministry Fund Balance	(11.12)	1,812.63	3,993.75
3.345.000	Childrens Music Ministry Fund Balance	0.00	754.00	1,754.00
	<i>Total Music Ministry Fund Balance</i>	<i>(\$11.12)</i>	<i>\$2,566.63</i>	<i>5,747.75</i>
3.350.000	Prairie Crafters Fund Balance	(1,070.10)	691.00	691.00
3.360.000	Miscellaneous Fund Balance	0.00	3,919.57	7,205.43
3.370.000	WELCA Fund Balance	(736.64)	982.29	N/A
3.400.000	<i>Youth Ministry Fund Balance</i>			
3.415.000	Youth Ministry Balance	100.00	2,546.43	2,246.43
3.417.000	Youth Mission Trips Balance	0.00	2,656.72	(3,217.39)
3.421.000	Youth Scholarship Balance	0.00	2,453.00	2,453.00
3.422.000	Operation Christmas Child Balance	0.00	166.76	88.36
3.423.000	Confirmation Retreat Fund Balance	(593.07)	838.47	1,075.00
3.424.000	Gift Card Program Fund Balance	0.00	6,569.03	4,698.32
	<i>Total Youth Ministry Fund Balance</i>	<i>(\$493.07)</i>	<i>\$15,230.41</i>	<i>7,343.72*</i>
3.500.000	Little Lambs Fund Balance	420.15	12,642.20	11,812.10
3.600.000	Prayer Shawl Ministry Fund Balance	15.00	162.60	172.60
3.700.000	Disaster Relief Fund Balance	0.00	120.00	3,290.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$1,164.71)</b>	<b>\$52,997.21</b>	<b>\$51,350.16</b>
	<b>Total Temporary Restricted Fund Balances</b>	<b>(\$1,164.71)</b>	<b>\$52,997.21</b>	<b>\$51,350.16</b>
<b><i>Building Fund</i></b>				
3.125.000	Building Fund Balance	(50,080.36)	68,877.94	60,255.25
	<b>Total Building Fund</b>	<b>(\$50,080.36)</b>	<b>\$68,877.94</b>	<b>\$60,255.25</b>
<b><i>Reserves</i></b>				
3.950.000	Inreach Reserves Fund Balance	1,075.00	2,397.93	1,512.93
3.960.000	Outreach Reserves Fund Balance	1,600.00	7,563.67	5,963.67
3.970.000	Bldg & Grounds Reserves Balance	6,140.00	23,508.14	18,868.14
3.975.000	Maintenance Reserves Balance	6,140.00	18,933.80	20,680.80
3.980.000	Equipment Reserves Balance	2,250.00	12,081.66	11,300.70
3.985.000	Sabbatical Reserves Balance	2,775.89	3,975.89	1,200.00
	<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>\$19,980.89</b>	<b>\$68,461.09</b>	<b>\$59,526.24</b>
<b><i>Permanently Restricted Funds</i></b>				
3.940.000	Endowment Fund Balance	0.00	5,030.00	5,030.00
	<b>Total Permanently Restricted Funds</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$5,030.00</b>	<b>\$5,030.00</b>
3.130.000	Building & Grounds Equity	83,751.21	1,292,084.61	1,058,103.68
	<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$83,751.21</b>	<b>\$1,292,084.61</b>	<b>\$1,058,103.68</b>
	<b>Total Fund Balances &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$32,665.54</b>	<b>\$1,531,836.66</b>	<b>\$1,285,163.99</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances &amp; Equity</b>	<b>(\$37,222.67)</b>	<b>\$2,233,615.05</b>	<b>\$2,228,256.13</b>

If the accounts in the subtotals have changed or if ledger (marked with "\*\*") and subsidiary account attributes have changed, Previous YTD totals may not represent a valid comparison.

# Financial Reports *(cont)*

**Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL  
Treasurer's Report as of December 2014 for General Fund**

**Friday, January 02, 2015**

**Page 1 of 4**

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Previous YTD
<b>Income</b>						
4.100.000	Member Contributions	44,357.50	499,387.49*	470,000.00	470,000.00	454,741.37
4.150.000	Loose Plate and Growth	3,486.35	26,040.49	41,735.00	41,735.00	27,198.47
4.200.000	Miscellaneous Income	(512.50)	4,676.76			0.00
4.250.000	Flower Income	219.00	2,492.25	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,735.00
4.300.000	Interest Income (Heartland Bank)	18.38	218.17	600.00	600.00	229.11
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$47,568.73</b>	<b>\$532,815.16*</b>	<b>\$515,335.00</b>	<b>\$515,335.00</b>	<b>\$484,903.95</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
<b>Mission Ministry</b>						
5.100.110	ELCA NI Synod	7,833.30	47,000.00	47,000.00	47,000.00	47,000.00
5.100.111	Good Samaritan	0.00	697.64	1,000.00	1,000.00	978.29
5.100.112	Local Mission	1,080.79	4,650.04	4,700.00	4,700.00	4,122.67
	<b>Mission Ministry</b>	<b>\$8,914.09</b>	<b>\$52,347.68</b>	<b>\$52,700.00</b>	<b>\$52,700.00</b>	<b>\$52,100.96</b>
<b>Outreach Ministry</b>						
5.150.100	Outreach/Evangelism	3,099.45	7,269.38*	6,000.00	6,000.00	4,267.78
5.150.150	Advertising	96.55	3,515.32	5,000.00	5,000.00	4,638.52
5.150.250	Outreach Ministry - Other	0.00	941.02*	500.00	500.00	0.00
	<b>Outreach Ministry</b>	<b>\$3,196.00</b>	<b>\$11,725.72*</b>	<b>\$11,500.00</b>	<b>\$11,500.00</b>	<b>\$8,906.30</b>
<b>Adult Education Ministry</b>						
5.200.000	Adult Ed Books/Reimbursements	0.00	976.13	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
5.200.300	Adult Ed Curriculum	0.00	595.59*	400.00	400.00	0.00
5.200.350	Retreats Expenses	0.00	200.98	1,000.00	1,000.00	72.00
5.200.400	Adult Ed - Other	0.00	766.50*	100.00	100.00	513.82
5.200.450	Home Devotional Guides	31.98	127.92			0.00
	<b>Adult Education Ministry</b>	<b>\$31.98</b>	<b>\$2,667.12</b>	<b>\$3,500.00</b>	<b>\$3,500.00</b>	<b>\$585.82</b>
<b>Youth and Education Ministry</b>						
5.250.100	Youth Resources	50.00	898.91	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,403.84
5.250.150	Youth Curriculum	0.00	666.54	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
5.250.200	Trip Expenses	0.00	390.65	2,800.00	2,800.00	2,382.33
5.250.250	Youth Retreats Expense	0.00	43.74	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
5.250.275	Software/Subscriptions	56.97	1,630.04*	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,097.13
5.250.280	Confirmation Expenses	0.00	5,219.29*	3,500.00	3,500.00	5,038.42
5.250.285	Sunday School Expenses	340.21	2,065.72*	1,000.00	1,000.00	599.29
5.250.290	VBS Expenses	0.00	3,239.86	3,500.00	3,500.00	2,908.52
5.250.300	Other Youth Expenses	12.99	1,016.56*	800.00	800.00	711.72

# Financial Reports *(cont)*

**Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL**  
**Treasurer's Report as of December 2014 for General Fund**

Friday, January 02, 2015

Page 2 of 4

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Previous YTD
<b>Youth and Education Ministry</b>		<b>\$460.17</b>	<b>\$15,171.31</b>	<b>\$18,100.00</b>	<b>\$18,100.00</b>	<b>\$16,141.25</b>
<i>Music Ministry</i>						
5.300.100	Choral Expenses	(241.05)	1,828.25	2,100.00	2,100.00	178.60
5.300.150	2nd Service Music	305.95	0.00			1,020.32
5.300.160	Saturday Service Organist	400.00	4,700.00	5,200.00	5,200.00	0.00
5.300.175	Bells Expenses	0.00	1,543.83*	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,190.43
5.300.350	Band Expenses	130.56	4,091.82*	2,300.00	2,300.00	5,900.00
5.300.400	Piano/Organ Maintenance	85.00	483.24	700.00	700.00	600.00
5.300.500	Licensing Fees	0.00	735.00	750.00	750.00	825.00
5.300.550	Music Resources Expenses	0.00	147.72	300.00	300.00	1,181.78
<b>Music Ministry</b>		<b>\$680.46</b>	<b>\$13,529.86*</b>	<b>\$12,850.00</b>	<b>\$12,850.00</b>	<b>\$10,896.13</b>
<i>Worship Ministry</i>						
5.350.100	Audio Visual Ministry	147.04	1,982.23*	1,500.00	1,500.00	3,635.01
5.350.150	Flowers	783.50	2,920.47	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,894.47
5.350.200	Altar Guild	0.00	398.29	1,000.00	1,000.00	681.97
5.350.250	Pastoral Assistance	0.00	1,350.00*	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,318.75
5.350.300	Worship Supplies	83.47	648.51	750.00	750.00	745.38
5.350.350	Misc. Worship Expenses	18.88	18.88	350.00	350.00	237.23
<b>Worship Ministry</b>		<b>\$1,032.89</b>	<b>\$7,318.38</b>	<b>\$7,800.00</b>	<b>\$7,800.00</b>	<b>\$9,512.81</b>
<i>Facilities</i>						
5.400.100	Cleaning Service	0.00	6,520.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	6,505.00
5.400.150	Utilities	1,028.92	9,252.39*	9,000.00	9,000.00	7,823.69
5.400.200	Waste Removal	181.60	1,928.53*	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,881.71
5.400.250	Lawncare/Snow removal	1,065.00	17,657.36*	7,000.00	7,000.00	4,829.00
5.400.300	Maint./Cleaning Supplies	111.28	654.95	750.00	750.00	398.22
5.400.350	Outside Contract Services	0.00	4,730.19*	4,100.00	4,100.00	4,759.39
5.400.400	Misc. Facilities expense	0.00	165.22	450.00	450.00	1,077.96
<b>Facilities</b>		<b>\$2,386.80</b>	<b>\$40,908.64*</b>	<b>\$30,500.00</b>	<b>\$30,500.00</b>	<b>\$27,274.97</b>
<i>Office Expenses</i>						
5.450.100	Office Supplies	204.90	3,540.94	9,600.00	9,600.00	8,038.43
5.450.200	Web/Software Expenses	242.99	4,089.32*	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,963.26
5.450.250	Telephone	145.11	2,086.69	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,029.30
5.450.275	Wireless Phone	109.74	1,392.06			0.00
5.450.300	Postage	284.61	1,737.35	2,000.00	2,000.00	967.01
5.450.350	Dues & Subscriptions	0.00	144.00	600.00	600.00	0.00

# Financial Reports *(cont)*

## Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Treasurer's Report as of December 2014 for General Fund

Friday, January 02, 2015

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Previous YTD
5.450.400	Equipment Rental	1,295.46	14,219.51*	7,000.00	7,000.00	8,899.68
5.450.450	Misc. Office Expenses	0.00	114.01	300.00	300.00	1,793.26
	<b>Office Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,282.81</b>	<b>\$27,323.88*</b>	<b>\$23,400.00</b>	<b>\$23,400.00</b>	<b>\$24,690.94</b>
<i>Staffing Ministry</i>						
5.500.100	Pastor Salary	4,524.46	54,112.12*	53,333.00	53,333.00	51,774.54
5.500.150	Pastor Housing Allowance	2,666.66	31,999.92	32,960.00	32,960.00	31,999.92
5.500.200	Lay Ministry Coord.	1,235.00	10,457.54*	7,300.00	7,300.00	1,891.25
5.500.250	Youth Ministry Coord.	3,121.32	37,376.78	37,456.00	37,456.00	36,364.98
5.500.300	Director of Music	3,069.00	35,603.54*	32,225.00	32,225.00	31,286.19
5.500.350	Organist	1,060.90	12,699.90	12,731.00	12,731.00	12,315.00
5.500.400	Tech. Support Manager	2,167.22	26,119.32	26,157.00	26,157.00	26,183.23
5.500.450	Office Manager	1,131.00	12,317.25	13,349.00	13,349.00	10,383.20
5.500.500	Director of Adult Education	2,902.02	34,743.68	34,824.00	34,824.00	33,809.70
5.500.525	AV Coordinator	600.00	7,200.00	7,200.00	7,200.00	7,219.58
5.500.550	Continuing Education/Training	0.00	3,678.84	4,000.00	4,000.00	2,987.80
5.500.600	Staff Social Security	1,113.71	13,380.81	16,000.00	16,000.00	11,129.75
5.500.650	Pastor SS/Ins/Retirement	3,518.71	41,678.85	43,000.00	43,000.00	42,631.63
5.500.675	Payroll Processing Expense	83.30	1,626.40	2,200.00	2,200.00	191.60
5.500.700	Misc. Staff expenses	0.00	1,412.20	2,500.00	2,500.00	1,593.72
5.500.750	Pastor's Con't Ed.	0.00	290.54	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
	<b>Staffing Ministry</b>	<b>\$27,193.30</b>	<b>\$324,697.69</b>	<b>\$326,235.00</b>	<b>\$326,235.00</b>	<b>\$301,762.09</b>
<i>Other Church Expenses</i>						
5.550.110	Kitchen Supplies	148.87	1,016.54			0.00
5.550.125	Church Events Expense	237.46	619.64			0.00
5.550.150	Committee Expenses	0.00	1,126.79	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,558.42
5.550.200	Church Insurance	39.50	8,261.50*	7,900.00	7,900.00	3,950.00
5.550.250	Automobile Expense	696.30	4,990.15*	4,200.00	4,200.00	5,302.99
5.550.300	Human Resources	9.90	265.95	500.00	500.00	150.00
5.550.350	Bank/Legal Expenses	98.80	792.27*	600.00	600.00	733.28
5.550.400	Misc. Expenses	0.00	71.15	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,384.58
	<b>Other Church Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,230.83</b>	<b>\$17,143.99</b>	<b>\$17,200.00</b>	<b>\$17,200.00</b>	<b>\$14,079.27</b>
<i>Providing for the Future</i>						
5.600.100	Provision for Outreach	1,600.00	1,600.00*	750.00	750.00	750.00
5.600.150	Provision for Inreach	1,075.00	1,075.00*	550.00	550.00	172.93
5.600.200	Provision for Equipment	2,250.00	2,250.00*	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00

# Financial Reports *(cont)*

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**Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL**  
**Treasurer's Report as of December 2014 for General Fund**

**Friday, January 02, 2015**

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Previous YTD
5.600.250	Provision for Maintenance	6,140.00	6,140.00*	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
5.600.300	Provision for Bldg. & Grounds	6,140.00	6,140.00*	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
5.600.350	Provision for Sabbatical	2,775.89	2,775.89*	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
	<b>Providing for the Future</b>	<b>\$19,980.89</b>	<b>\$19,980.89*</b>	<b>\$9,500.00</b>	<b>\$9,500.00</b>	<b>\$9,122.93</b>
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$67,390.22</b>	<b>\$532,815.16*</b>	<b>\$513,285.00</b>	<b>\$513,285.00</b>	<b>\$475,073.47</b>
	<b>Difference</b>	<b>(\$19,821.49)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,050.00</b>	<b>\$2,050.00</b>	<b>\$9,830.48</b>

\* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date

If the accounts in the subtotals have changed or if ledger and subsidiary account attributes have changed, Previous YTD totals may not represent a valid comparison.

# Financial Reports *(cont)*

## Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2014

Friday, January 02, 2015

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Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
<b>3.125.000 Building Fund Balance</b>			
		<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>118,958.30</b>
			<b>60,255.25</b>
<i>Income</i>			
4.160.000	Debt Reduction Donations	19,451.64	46,874.39
4.310.000	Building Fund Donations	16,142.00	211,997.56
4.700.000	Mission Plus Interest Income	0.00	492.11
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$35,593.64</u></b>	<b><u>\$259,364.06</u></b>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.125.000	Loan Principal Payments	11,751.21	127,120.16
5.126.000	Loan Interest Payments	1,922.79	23,293.84
5.127.000	Loan Principal only Payments	72,000.00	106,860.77
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$85,674.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$257,274.77</u></b>
	Journal Entry Debits	0.00	0.00
	Journal Entry Credits	0.00	6,533.40
	<b>Total Journal Entries</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,533.40</u></b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b><u>\$68,877.94</u></b>	<b><u>\$68,877.94</u></b>
<b>3.170.000 Special Services Fund Balance</b>			
		<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>1,144.00</b>
			<b>5,745.95</b>
<i>Income</i>			
4.170.000	Special Services Donations	6,132.00	17,648.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$6,132.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$17,648.00</u></b>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.170.000	Special Services Expense	5,626.00	21,743.95
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$5,626.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$21,743.95</u></b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b><u>\$1,650.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,650.00</u></b>
<b>3.175.000 Memorial Fund Balance</b>			
		<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>75.00</b>
			<b>1,364.61</b>
<i>Income</i>			
4.175.000	Memorial Donations	1,025.00	9,135.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$1,025.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$9,135.00</u></b>



# Financial Reports *(cont)*

## Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2014

Friday, January 02, 2015

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Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.175.000	Memorial Expense	0.00	9,399.61
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$9,399.61</u></b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$1,100.00</b>	<b>\$1,100.00</b>
<b>3.180.000 Grafton Food Pantry Fund Balance</b>			
	<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>605.00</b>	<b>510.00</b>
<i>Income</i>			
4.190.000	Grafton Food Pantry Donations	120.00	1,790.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$120.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,790.00</u></b>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.190.000	Grafton Food Pantry Expense	0.00	1,575.00
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,575.00</u></b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$725.00</b>	<b>\$725.00</b>
<b>3.200.000 Heifer Fund Balance</b>			
	<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>1,099.48</b>	<b>819.96</b>
<i>Income</i>			
4.350.000	Heifer Income	6.26	285.78
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$6.26</u></b>	<b><u>\$285.78</u></b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$1,105.74</b>	<b>\$1,105.74</b>
<b>3.210.000 Grant Fund Balance</b>			
	<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>255.00</b>	<b>255.00</b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$255.00</b>	<b>\$255.00</b>
<b>3.220.000 AV Ministry Fund Balance</b>			
	<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>1,496.33</b>	<b>22.18</b>
<i>Income</i>			
4.220.000	AV Ministry Fund Donations	0.00	4,000.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,000.00</u></b>

# Financial Reports *(cont)*

## Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2014

Friday, January 02, 2015

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Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.220.000	Av Ministry Fund Expenses	0.00	2,525.85
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,525.85</u></b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$1,496.33</b>	<b>\$1,496.33</b>
<b>3.250.000 Good Samaritan Fund Balance</b>			
	<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>4,627.67</b>	<b>2,646.15</b>
<i>Income</i>			
4.325.000	Good Samaritan Donations	10.00	5,293.75
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$10.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$5,293.75</u></b>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.625.000	Good Samaritan Expense	1,200.00	4,502.23
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$1,200.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,502.23</u></b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$3,437.67</b>	<b>\$3,437.67</b>
<b>3.260.000 Evangelism/Outreach Fund Balance</b>			
	<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>6,668.96</b>	<b>3,723.71</b>
<i>Income</i>			
4.260.000	Evangelism/outreach donations	340.00	3,650.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$340.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$3,650.00</u></b>
<i>Expenses</i>			
<i>Outreach Ministry</i>			
5.260.000	Evangelism/Outreach expense	96.19	460.94
	<b>Outreach Ministry</b>	<b>96.19</b>	<b>460.94</b>
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$96.19</u></b>	<b><u>\$460.94</u></b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$6,912.77</b>	<b>\$6,912.77</b>
<b>3.300.000 Music Ministry Fund Balance</b>			
	<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>2,577.75</b>	<b>5,747.75</b>
3.330.000	Adult Music Ministry Fund Balance		
	<b>Beginning Sub Fund Balance</b>	<b>1,823.75</b>	<b>3,993.75</b>
<i>Income</i>			

# Financial Reports *(cont)*

## Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2014

Friday, January 02, 2015

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Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
4.330.000	Adult Music Ministry Donations	0.00	830.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$830.00</b>
	<i>Expenses</i>		
5.330.000	Adult Music Ministry Expense	11.12	3,011.12
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$11.12</b>	<b>\$3,011.12</b>
	<b>Ending Sub Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$1,812.63</b>	<b>\$1,812.63</b>
3.345.000	Childrens Music Ministry Fund Balance		
	<b>Beginning Sub Fund Balance</b>	<b>754.00</b>	<b>1,754.00</b>
	<i>Expenses</i>		
5.345.000	Childrens Music Minstry expense	0.00	1,000.00
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
	<b>Ending Sub Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$754.00</b>	<b>\$754.00</b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$2,566.63</b>	<b>\$2,566.63</b>
<b>3.350.000</b>	<b>Prairie Crafters Fund Balance</b>		
	<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>1,761.10</b>	<b>691.00</b>
	<i>Income</i>		
4.355.000	Prairie Crafters Income	614.00	10,085.35
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$614.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$10,085.35</u></b>
	<i>Expenses</i>		
5.355.000	Prairie Crafters Expense	1,684.10	10,085.35
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$1,684.10</u></b>	<b><u>\$10,085.35</u></b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$691.00</b>	<b>\$691.00</b>
<b>3.360.000</b>	<b>Miscellaneous Fund Balance</b>		
	<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>3,919.57</b>	<b>7,205.43</b>
	<i>Income</i>		
4.360.000	Miscellaneous Fund Income	0.00	20,348.35
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$20,348.35</u></b>
	<i>Expenses</i>		
5.360.000	Miscellaneous Fund Expense	0.00	23,634.21

# Financial Reports *(cont)*

## Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2014

Friday, January 02, 2015

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Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
		<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>
		<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b><u>\$3,919.57</u></b>
<b>3.370.000 WELCA Fund Balance</b>			
		<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<i>Income</i>			
4.370.000	WELCA Income	0.00	1,718.93
		<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$1,718.93</u></b>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.370.000	WELCA Expenses	736.64	736.64
		<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$736.64</u></b>
		<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b><u>\$982.29</u></b>
<b>3.400.000 Youth Ministry Fund Balance</b>			
		<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>7,343.72</b>
3.415.000	Youth Ministry Balance		
		<b>Beginning Sub Fund Balance</b>	<b>2,446.43</b>
<i>Income</i>			
4.415.100	Youth Ministry Income	100.00	300.00
		<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$300.00</u></b>
		<b>Ending Sub Fund Balance</b>	<b><u>\$2,546.43</u></b>
3.417.000	Youth Mission Trips Balance		
		<b>Beginning Sub Fund Balance</b>	<b>(3,217.39)</b>
<i>Income</i>			
4.417.000	Youth Mission Trips Income	0.00	35,226.29
		<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$35,226.29</u></b>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.417.000	Youth Mission Trips Expense	0.00	29,352.18
		<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$29,352.18</u></b>
		<b>Ending Sub Fund Balance</b>	<b><u>\$2,656.72</u></b>
3.421.000	Youth Scholarship Balance		

# Financial Reports *(cont)*

## Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2014

Friday, January 02, 2015

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Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
	<b>Beginning Sub Fund Balance</b>	<b>2,453.00</b>	<b>2,453.00</b>
	<b>Ending Sub Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$2,453.00</b>	<b>\$2,453.00</b>
3.422.000	Operation Christmas Child Balance		
	<b>Beginning Sub Fund Balance</b>	<b>166.76</b>	<b>88.36</b>
	<i>Income</i>		
4.418.000	Operation Christmas Child Income	0.00	493.50
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$493.50</b>
	<i>Expenses</i>		
5.518.000	Operation Christmas Child Expense	0.00	415.10
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$415.10</b>
	<b>Ending Sub Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$166.76</b>	<b>\$166.76</b>
3.423.000	Confirmation Retreat Fund Balance		
	<b>Beginning Sub Fund Balance</b>	<b>1,431.54</b>	<b>1,075.00</b>
	<i>Income</i>		
4.423.000	Confirmation Retreat Income	0.00	8,146.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$8,146.00</b>
	<i>Expenses</i>		
5.423.000	Confirmation Retreat Expense	593.07	8,382.53
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$593.07</b>	<b>\$8,382.53</b>
	<b>Ending Sub Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$838.47</b>	<b>\$838.47</b>
3.424.000	Gift Card Program Fund Balance		
	<b>Beginning Sub Fund Balance</b>	<b>6,569.03</b>	<b>4,698.32</b>
	<i>Income</i>		
4.424.000	Gift Card Program Income	0.00	29,660.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$29,660.00</b>
	<i>Expenses</i>		
5.424.000	Gift Card Program Expense	0.00	27,789.29
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$27,789.29</b>
	<b>Ending Sub Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$6,569.03</b>	<b>\$6,569.03</b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$15,230.41</b>	<b>\$15,230.41</b>
<b>3.500.000</b>	<b>Little Lambs Fund Balance</b>		

# Financial Reports *(cont)*

## Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2014

Friday, January 02, 2015

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Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
		<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>12,222.05</b>
			<b>11,812.10</b>
<i>Income</i>			
4.500.100	Little Lambs Tuition	455.00	12,513.71
		<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$455.00</u></b>
			<b><u>\$12,513.71</u></b>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.700.100	Little Lambs Salary	0.00	10,382.06
5.700.110	Little Lambs Expenses	34.85	1,301.55
		<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$34.85</u></b>
			<b><u>\$11,683.61</u></b>
		<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$12,642.20</b>
			<b>\$12,642.20</b>
<b>3.600.000 Prayer Shawl Ministry Fund Balance</b>			
		<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>147.60</b>
			<b>172.60</b>
<i>Income</i>			
4.600.000	Prayer Shawl Ministry Donations	15.00	150.00
		<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$15.00</u></b>
			<b><u>\$150.00</u></b>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.600.010	Prayer Shawl Ministry Expense	0.00	160.00
		<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>
			<b><u>\$160.00</u></b>
		<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$162.60</b>
			<b>\$162.60</b>
<b>3.700.000 Disaster Relief Fund Balance</b>			
		<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>120.00</b>
			<b>3,290.00</b>
<i>Income</i>			
4.710.000	Disater Relief	0.00	120.00
		<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>
			<b><u>\$120.00</u></b>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.710.000	Diaster Relief Fund	0.00	3,290.00
		<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>
			<b><u>\$3,290.00</u></b>
		<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>
			<b>\$120.00</b>
<b>3.940.000 Endowment Fund Balance</b>			
		<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>5,030.00</b>
			<b>5,030.00</b>

# Financial Reports *(cont)*

## Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2014

Friday, January 02, 2015

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Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$5,030.00</b>	<b>\$5,030.00</b>
<b>3.950.000</b>	<b>Inreach Reserves Fund Balance</b>		
	<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>1,322.93</b>	<b>1,512.93</b>
	<i>Income</i>		
4.950.000	Inreach Reserves Income	1,075.00	1,075.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$1,075.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,075.00</u></b>
	<i>Expenses</i>		
5.950.000	Inreach Reserves Expense	0.00	190.00
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$190.00</u></b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$2,397.93</b>	<b>\$2,397.93</b>
<b>3.960.000</b>	<b>Outreach Reserves Fund Balance</b>		
	<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>5,963.67</b>	<b>5,963.67</b>
	<i>Income</i>		
4.960.000	Outreach Reserves Income	1,600.00	1,600.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$1,600.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,600.00</u></b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$7,563.67</b>	<b>\$7,563.67</b>
<b>3.970.000</b>	<b>Bldg &amp; Grounds Reserves Balance</b>		
	<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>17,368.14</b>	<b>18,868.14</b>
	<i>Income</i>		
4.970.000	Bldg & Grounds Reserves Income	6,140.00	6,140.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$6,140.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,140.00</u></b>
	<i>Expenses</i>		
5.970.000	Bldg & Grounds Reserves Expense	0.00	1,500.00
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,500.00</u></b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$23,508.14</b>	<b>\$23,508.14</b>
<b>3.975.000</b>	<b>Maintenance Reserves Balance</b>		
	<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>12,793.80</b>	<b>20,680.80</b>

# Financial Reports *(cont)*

## Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2014

Friday, January 02, 2015

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Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
<i>Income</i>			
4.975.000	Maintenance Reserves Income	6,140.00	6,140.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$6,140.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,140.00</u></b>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.975.000	Maintenance Reserves Expense	0.00	7,887.00
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$7,887.00</u></b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$18,933.80</b>	<b>\$18,933.80</b>
<b>3.980.000 Equipment Reserves Balance</b>			
	<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>9,831.66</b>	<b>11,300.70</b>
<i>Income</i>			
4.980.000	Equipment Reserves Income	2,250.00	2,250.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$2,250.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,250.00</u></b>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.980.000	Equipment Reserves Expense	0.00	1,469.04
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,469.04</u></b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$12,081.66</b>	<b>\$12,081.66</b>
<b>3.985.000 Sabbatical Reserves Balance</b>			
	<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>
<i>Income</i>			
4.985.000	Sabatical Reserves Income	2,775.89	2,775.89
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$2,775.89</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,775.89</u></b>
	<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$3,975.89</b>	<b>\$3,975.89</b>



# Statistical Report

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<b>Statistical Report</b>								
Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Baptized Members	421	478	531	711	849	962	1064	1084
Worship Attendance	229	241	362	392	426	446	451	438
Ministry Income	\$304,068	\$321,632	\$371,390	\$422,028	\$469,630	\$492,641	\$496,004	\$532,815
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	14 Children 3 Adults
Weddings		4	2	7	4	3	7	4
Confirmations		6	2	9	11	18	20	21

# 2015 Ministry Reports

## Youth & Family Ministries

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### 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.

—*Barb Pagano*

### LITTLE LAMBS

Our Little Lambs Early Learning Program is in our 6<sup>th</sup> year, we can't believe how much we have grown!!! This year we have been blessed to be able to use the outside playground, the kids love going outside and running!!! 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 sixth 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.

We will be starting early enrollment for the 2014 school year in February. Children between the ages of 2 and 4 yrs. (by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>) 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](mailto: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*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

We had a great 2014! We accomplished many of our goals for the year. We currently have 113 students enrolled in Sunday School. We are fully staffed! We have 16 wonderful volunteer teachers who are excited and energized about bringing the Word of God to the children of the congregation. We implemented a new, easier sign up for Sunday School, utilizing our new youth ministry master list. Sign up was easier and faster than ever before. We made a curriculum change to spice up our classroom activities. Our new curriculum, *Sparkhouse Sparks*, uses a lectionary style calendar, which follows the allows us to be teaching the same verses and stories that are highlighted in each week's service. The goal is always to encourage conversation and sharing between our students and their parents. Sparks also features an interactive website available to parents to use as a resource. Perhaps our most exciting accomplishment is the first meeting of our new youth group. We have parents that are taking the first steps to get this going. We will have events this winter and spring and hope to offer our younger children an exciting new way to serve God and make a difference in their community. As we look forward to 2015 the sky is the limit. We are exploring new ways to inspire our children to look within themselves and find God's servant inside. Thank you for all of your continued support, none of this would be possible without your prayers, love, and support! Thanks be to God!

—*Mike Parmele*

**Sunday School Director**

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

We are on our third 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. Families are so busy with church, sports, work etc.; so one night a week they have one less thing to worry about. The first year we started out serving about 35 people. We now serve around 65 people. Dinner is from 5:30-6:15. We charge \$2 per person or \$10 for a family. This covers the cost of the meal. 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

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## GRAFTON FOOD PANTRY

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

The Grafton Food Pantry is thrilled with the faithfulness of the members of Shepherd of the Prairie. Every month we not only donate cash to the pantry but we fill a van full of food. Every dollar donated will purchase \$8.00 in food from the Illinois Food Bank.

A huge thank-you to all who donate.

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, SOTP has shared over \$17,000. The various recipients are listed below.

We have also taken to heart the ELCA's GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS. The charities underlined designate SOTP volunteer participation in addition to financial support.

- ELCA Ebola Disaster Response
- ELCA Gaza Humanitarian Disaster Response
- ELCA Stubbs Family Tanzania Missionary Support
- ELCA World Hunger
- Elgin Community Crisis Center
- Exodus Welcome to America Packs
- Feed My Starving Children
- Grafton Food Pantry
- Habitat for Humanity
- Home of the Sparrow
- Local Giving Tree
- LOMC (Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center)
- LSSI Behavioral Health Services of Elgin
- Lutheran Social Service of Illinois
- Northern IL Food Bank
- PADS\*
- Pioneer Center for Human Services
- Senior Care Volunteers
- Timothy Project Scheuermann Family Ethiopian missionary support
- Turning Point

If you have any charity that you work with please let the Mission Team know. We look forward to hearing about any and all involvement.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Sandy Hupert*  
**Mission Team Chair**

*...and SOTP Mission Team members Jill Brown, Becky Hennessey, Carl Hupert, Steve Legel, Corrine Neukirch, Larry Newbanks, Nancy Ottinger, Jules Pelka, Sid Sorensen and Mary Trodahl.*

## PRAIRIE CRAFTERS

This year was very exciting. Our craft shows all went well. With new members in our group we had many fresh new ideas and new ways of displaying our crafts. This year with every one's help we were able to donate \$10,085.35 to the principle of our debt. Thank you to everyone that made this possible.

God Bless all of you.

—*Alice Hallett, Joan Kiminaw, Noreta Walker*

## PRAIRIE POINT QUILTERS

2014 has been a most successful quilting year. 130 quilts were completed. This is a new high! Many hands, hours, energy and effort in addition to generous donations of material and other quilting supplies have contributed to this success.

- Thirteen quilts were given to Home of the Sparrow for needy families in McHenry County.
- Two quilts were given to EXODUS Habitat to help equip a new home for foreign refugee families
- One quilt was auctioned in a "Silent Auction" to generate funds for quilting supplies

Financially, the Prairie Point Quilters are sound.

- Trivent has given the PP Quilters a \$300.00 donation which is used exclusively towards the purchase of batting.
- Through our "QUARTERS 4 QUILTS" campaigns, we have raised \$507.34 which was used towards the purchase of batting, other quilting supplies and sewing machine repairs.
- As a result of the spring "Silent Auction", we raised \$60.00.
- Through the generosity of the SOTP Friendship Bible Study, the PP Quilters were given \$60.00 as part of their Christmas Mission.
- Our total Income WITHOUT expenses for the 2014 PP Quilters year is \$927.34

As of January 2015, Nancy Morbeck along with Harriet Thompson will be leading the SOTP Prairie Point Quilting Ministry.

—*Dotty Lucia and Harriet Thompson*

## PRAYER MINISTRY

While searching for scripture for the annual report, I found the following:

*"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill?"*

—Numbers 23:19

*"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer".*

—I Peter 3:12

These words tell us that prayer is important to God-that He listens to our prayers-that we should pray and care for one another. We may get discouraged that our prayers don't get answered in OUR timing but God knows best and answers them in HIS wisdom and in HIS timing.

If you have a prayer request or praise (we also need to thank and praise God) you may fill out a form which is on the usher's table in the Crossroads area and leave it in the church office. You may also call Michelle Rankin in the church office(847-669-9948) or Carol Gerhardt (847-683-2746) or email Carol ([omafive@att.net](mailto:omafive@att.net)) I check the emails every day and send out the requests to the prayer team members.

Each week the published prayer list is revised and printed in the weekly announcements.

If you wish to join the prayer team, please contact either Michelle or Carol. Right now we have 72 faithful SOTP members praying for each other and for family and friends.

—*Carol Gerhardt*

**Prayer Ministry Team**

## PRAYER SHAWLS

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is based on a very old idea...that those experiencing rough times, physically, emotionally or spiritually, are comforted with the presence of a warm shawl.

We give these shawls for both joyful events such as the birth of a child, or for those sad times when someone needs a little comfort. Shawls are available to all, we also donate them to Centegra Hospital and the Hospice group.

In the past year around our gathered circle ~

- 235 Shawls
- 14 Baptism Blankets

...have been stitched with compassion, passed through praying hands, and blessed by loving hearts.

We gratefully receive donations for yarn from Thrivent and other donors.

This is a very rewarding ministry and new knitters and/or crocheters are always welcome. If you're a beginner, an experienced needlemeister, or willing to learn, come Shawl with us!

—*Alice Hallett and Jeanne Henley*

# Worship Ministries

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## Worship Ministry Team

Members: Ferdie Kimminau, Judy Symbol, Barb Pagano, Chris Solem, Pat Fiorese, Jane McMullen and Mike McCann (council representative)

Our team's goal is to provide a smooth flow to our worship services. We schedule Ushers, Altar Guild Assistants and Communion Bread Bakers for each weekly and special worship service throughout the year. We also offer suggestions to enhance our worship services at SOTP. We thank Jane McMullen for her guidance regarding the worship seasons of the church.

During 2014, we added two new members to our Worship Ministry Team. Barbara Pagano accepted the position of decorating our Sanctuary and Crossroads for special church seasons. Her talents were viewed during All Saint's Day, Thanksgiving Season and also our Christmas Season. We thank Barb for adding special elements of beauty to these important church seasons.

Also, we welcomed Chris Solem to our team to coordinate drama for our Worship services. Chris and Darren Walloch presented a humorous but thought provoking drama during the month of December. Chris is eager to offer additional skits during 2015. If you would like to participate on the drama team, please contact Chris Solem or any member of the Worship Ministry Team.

Reports have been prepared by:

Ferdie Kimminau ..... Usher Coordinator  
Judy Symbol ..... Altar Guild Coordinator  
Pat Fiorese ..... Communion Bread Baking Coordinator

We encourage you to offer suggestions regarding our weekly or special worship services to any team member, Pastor Mark or Jane McMullen. This is your church. Worship is a time to grow our faith, learn God's word and meet and begin relationships with fellow members and guests.

—*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.

No major changes had been made in 2014 to equipment or operationally. Prior to Christmas, our recording PC's motherboard died, leaving us to look for a new solution for recording worship services. We are currently looking at a solution of a digital video recorder to capture worship services for online viewing.

- We continue to 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 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, Tim Reincke, Kyle Frendries, Brian Ott, Jack Ott, Adam Wolloch, Ian Wolloch, Dan Wills and Dick Brush. Ralph Wehnes acts as a substitute 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 and 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 Planning committee for any special needs for all services.

The members work in teams of two or three each month for set-up and clean-up. Bread for communion is baked by volunteers.

Our members set-up for baptisms. Each child baptized receives a personalized napkin embroidered by Carol Lilla, name banner made by Carol Kalbas and Elaine Neukirch, white blanket knit by the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and a faith chest made by Chris Trodahl. A special thank you to all the above members for their talent in helping to make baptism a very special time for each child.

The Altar Guild has a budget each year. Supplies are purchased as needed - wine, grape juice, gluten-free wafers, whole wheat wafers all other items as needed arise.

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 Altar Guild.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Judie Symbal*  
**Chairperson**

## COMMUNION BREAD BAKING

It was my pleasure to schedule the Communion Bread Bakers for the past three years. This position gave me an opportunity to correspond and meet so many wonderful people at SOTP. I am grateful for the special aspect you bring to each and every worship service. The communion bread is baked with love and the presence of prayer each week by someone that gives time from their busy weekly schedule. I thank each of you for being part of this giving group:

Joan Rice	Jill Brown	Sue Wehnes	Jeff & Kristi Cordle
Phyllis Thomson	JoAnn Ward	Jeanne Henley	Renae Greene
Elaine Neukirch	Jen Powe	Pamela Perrott	Jen Kolcz
Lisa Adams	JoAnne Klinger	Sally Schuett	Brandi Lorenzo
Sandy Martin	Elizabeth Wintersteen	Jacque Stashwick	Kerry Miller
Lynn Broederdorf	Kim Stowell	Pam Fender	Michelle Miller
Michelle Sullivan	Mary Trodahl	Randi Dawson	Donna Brown
Barb Krmopotich	Michelle Saletta	Nancy Zunker	Barb Nitschneider
Judie Brady	P J Knudsen		

Thankfully we have many members participating in this ministry. Baking is usually required only 2 or 3 times during the year by each baker. If I missed anyone, please forgive me.

Judie Symbol has accepted the scheduling position for 2015. Watch for emails/calls from her regarding the baking for our weekly services. . If you would like to join this group, please contact a Worship Ministry Team member or Judy Symbol.

The Worship Ministry Team appreciates your dedication and baking skills to deliver bread each week for our worship services. It has been a joy to work with all of you.

—*Pat Fiorese*



## **COMMUNION FROM THE ASSEMBLY**

Pastor Ken Pohlmann was able to train five members of our church to be added to our 13 Ministers of Communion from the Assembly. 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 January through December of 2014. we have served 71 in our congregation over the course of this past year

Anyone wanting to receive this service need only to call the church and we will add you to our list. Anyone wanting to join our ministry need only contact Donna Kelly for information on how to become part of this team.

—*Janice Shuff*

## **FAITH CHEST MINISTRY**

SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE Faith Chest Ministry provides a handmade 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 & keepsakes of one's journey to faith and adulthood can be stored.

The Faith Chest is presented by Pastor Mark to the parents at the conclusion of the Baptismal Ceremony.

Currently the Faith Chests are being handcrafted from red oak by Chris Trodahl. Please feel free to contact Chris Trodahl at 815-893-0641 if you have any questions about the Faith Chest Ministry.

—*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*

## **NURSERY CAREGIVERS**

The nursery ministry provides care for young children during worship on Sunday mornings, and helps maintain a safe and clean environment for them. Our volunteers have always been generous with their time and abilities, and I am very grateful to work with all of them. If anyone is interested in serving as a nursery caregiver, please contact me.

—*Jen Powe*

## **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. Dolly Cardascio will be heading up the Greeter Team in 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

—*Joanne Klínger*

## USHERS

I want to thank all of the Ushers for a job well done in 2014. Becky Tuzik is doing a great job scheduling ushers for the Saturday service. I really appreciate her assistance. We have made some changes; the biggest one is collecting the offering from the outside aisles for the 9:00 a.m. service. This is utilized when the choir is singing during the collection of the offering thus allowing the video camera full view of the choir. Members also volunteer to assist during funeral services. Thank you for giving time to assist family members and their visiting relatives/friends during a very difficult time of their life.

Once again I want to thank all of the men and women who volunteer as Ushers. Please contact me if you are interested in assisting. We are in need of Ushers for our 10:45 a.m. services. Your commitment would be approximately once a month.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Ferdie Kimminau*

## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

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*

**Worship Participants Coordinator**

# Music Ministries

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## SOTP MUSIC MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2014

### CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY (CMM)

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

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

We have 8 children registered in the Cherub choir this year. They range in age from 3-6, with the majority being in the 3-4 year old range! As they are not reading yet, we have been joining the Joy Ringers (chime choir) for "ring and sing" musical offerings this year.

We are blessed to have Bailey Greene as our accompanist this year. As our rehearsal time is short, I try each week to incorporate a bit of learning, too! We talk about what we are singing and how it relates to Jesus and his love for us and ours for him! This is a delightful group of children, who enjoy singing and bring great joy to our services with their musical offerings!

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sandy Martin*

### BLESSINGS CHOIR MICHAEL WAAL, DIRECTOR

The Blessing's Choir continues to be a real joy in my work at SOTP. We currently have 8 members. 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 14, as well as at the early Christmas Eve service. 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. On a final note, I would like to thank the parents of all our children involved in music. We could not do it without your support and willingness.

Respectfully,

*Michael Waal*

### YOUTH BAND TYLER GREENE, CHAD JUERGENSEN, DIRECTORS. JANE McMULLEN, SUPPORT/MENTOR

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 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and are a joy to participate in worship with. In September, I handed over the leadership role to Tyler Greene and Chad Juergensen who have done an incredible job planning, running rehearsals and leading worship! I serve as mentor and support to these fine young men!!

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

This is a combined group of children from 2 separate choirs in grades 2nd -5<sup>th</sup>, 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 Joy Ringers played "A Manger Medley" for the Christmas service 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. The groups will continue to learn ringing techniques as well as hone their reading skills.

Respectfully,

*Michael Waal*

## **THE JOY RINGERS** (BEGINNING CHIMES)

**DENISE JAMES AND JANE McMULLEN, DIRECTORS**

The Joy Ringers are the beginning bell group & consists of children in mostly 1st & 2nd grades. There are currently 7 children that participate. The group's purpose is the learn proper bell ringing techniques as well as beginning to read & follow music. The group currently uses chimes to play songs in chord format & has accompanied the Cherub Choir while they sang. They played a Christmas Medley for the Cherub Choir that included flute & piano players. The Joy Ringers will continue to work on improving technique & will begin to read & follow music. The goal for year end is to play a simple music piece using individual notes.

## **JUBELLATION RINGERS** (INTERMEDIATE BELLS, 6TH - 7<sup>TH</sup> 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. There have been many ringers in this group who have been awesome subs for other groups when they needed it. This group currently has sent 4 ringers up to play with Spirit Ringers but they also continue to play with Jubellation. 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.

## **SPIRIT RINGERS HANDBELL CHOIR** (YOUTH/HIGH SCHOOL BELLS)

**JANE McMULLEN, DIRECTOR**

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. Heartfelt thanks to Larry and Donna Newbank who purchased “D3” in honor of their Granddaughter, Amanda Juergensen’s Birthday! Only 8 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 2014, 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.

In April we lead worship on Easter Sunday and a week later presented a concert with the Heartland voices. It was a great evening of music and fellowship.

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

## **Prairie Ringers Handbell Choir**

**Jane McMullen, Director**

The Prairie Ringers helped to lead worship services at SOTP in 2014, including several 5:00 pm services on Saturdays. We now rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 7:15 – 9:00 pm, 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.

The Prairie Ringers participated in a Christmas concert with the Heartland voices on Dec. 21. We also offered three pieces at the 6:00 pm Christmas Eve service. Well done!!

## **ADULT BEGINNING HANDBELLS**

This group is for Adults who read music a bit or not at all. We have played 4 times for worship and continue to learn musical concepts as well as much fun and fellowship! We rehearse Monday nights at 7pm to 8pm. Please consider joining us, we have lots of room for new ringers.

## **REJOICE WORSHIP BAND**

**JANE McMULLEN, DIRECTOR**

We currently have two solid teams leading our contemporary worship service at 10:45am 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. We continue to present and lead current contemporary music along with many "old faithfuls" in worship. 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.

## **SHEPHERD'S VOICES (ADULT CHOIR)**

**JANE McMULLEN, DIRECTOR**

The adult choir is currently averaging 20 to 25 members in size. We welcomed 5 new members this year. 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 sung in the 99 voice Ecumenical Palm Sunday Concert Choir at St. Catherine's Church in West Dundee. This February, we will begin rehearsals for the Easter Choir and invite more folks to join. In December several members joined the Heartland voices for a delightful Holiday concert. Please prayerfully consider joining us, we welcome all new members enthusiastically!!

## **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 remains the director of the Blessings and Jubilate choirs this year which continues to be 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 2015. 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

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## BOWLING LEAGUE

The league is in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, and was established to give church members the opportunity to get together socially while doing something they like to do. We meet only once a month (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday) at Brunswick Zone on Randall Rd. in Algonquin at 6:00 P.M. This is a FUN league. There is no requirement to be a good bowler. We welcome anyone who likes to bowl from High School to age 100, men & women, married or single.

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

We can always use new members to be a regular or substitute bowler. Call me at (847) 659-1331 or E-Mail me at schmidtw12@comcast.net.

—*Wayne Schmidt*  
**League Secretary**

## CARING CARD

Carol Kalbas and I are grateful for the help of Judie Symbal who cut out all the letters for the 14 Baptism and 22 Confirmation banners made and to Alice Hallett for crocheting the white hangers for all banners; to Carol Spiller who designs and makes the Confirmation, First Communion and Get Well cards for us.

Cards are sent to those who are ill, hospitalized or grieving for a loved one along with those who are Baptised, those receiving their First Communion, new members, High School Graduation and holiday cards to the Servicemen and Women in the Armed forces.

—*Elaine Neukirch, Carol Kalbas, Carol Spiller, Judie Symbal & Alice Hallett*

## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

We have manned the kitchen for the coffee hour with the generous help of others when we can't be there. We monitor the calendar and through our encouragement, many have signed up to celebrate special events like birthdays and anniversaries on Sunday. We have also encouraged participation from the congregation to celebrate Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and other special days.

The making of coffee on Saturday night for Sunday morning has been taken over by some of our Saturday worshippers, and we are very grateful for their participation.

Though signup for bringing baked goods has been very faithful, we have determined that if no one signs up, there will only be coffee that Sunday.

A big thank you to Ralph Wehnes for color tagging the coffee pot parts to help eliminate coffee pot malfunctions. If you are making coffee, please match the parts!

We have decided to make a change in how the kitchen will be managed on Sunday mornings. We will still have the sign up for baked goods. If those who sign up would like to manage the kitchen on Sunday morning, they can mark that option on the sign-up sheet, and it will be greatly appreciated. We are also going to be signing up kitchen managers (separate from bringing baked goods) to serve on a particular Sunday of the month, much the same way that ushers are scheduled. Our hope is to have a team of 3-4 each Sunday, with a minimum of 2, pulling from each Sunday morning service. This will encourage more participation in the life of our church.

We are deeply grateful for those who have generously donated time and baked goods to make our Sunday morning fellowship more meaningful.

Joyfully submitted,

—*Marty Bergman, Carol Waxenberg*

## **FFAA (FUN FOR ALL AGES)**

FFAA-Fun For All Ages was responsible for three major events in 2014.

- We organized 5 Lenten soup suppers where we had over 560 attend.
- August 10th was the church picnic and over 180 people were there.
- November 26th was Piefest after the service and 110 folks enjoyed the food and fellowship.

I have an amazing committee of dedicated servers. They include Mary Trodahl, Tracy McDuffee, Kathy and Vic Pizarro, Jodi Dowell, and Neal and Shannon Mejdrieh. Together we all enjoy planning, organizing and serving to make these three events successful. I am blessed by each and every one of them as we all combine our talents and efforts together.

—*Sharon Little*  
**Chairperson**

## **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.

## **IN REACH**

Statement of Purpose: “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.” In 2014, the In Reach Committee continued to support and expand a variety of ministry programs to fulfill the statement of purpose.

The Ministers of Communion from the Assembly ministry serves those who are unable to attend community worship; both those who are unable on a temporary basis as well as for an extended time. To date, seventeen Ministers of Communion have been commissioned following extensive training by Pastor Ken Pohlmann and approval by the Church Council. Ministers have been trained in the history of the program, how to conduct the Communion Service, and in ways to deal with challenging situations that could arise. A future training is anticipated for March or later in 2015. Communion from the Assembly occurs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month.

Stemming from the Strategic Direction, “*Promote the wellbeing of area children, youth and young adults through identification and facilitation of community programming,*” the In Reach committee took on the challenge of creating a tutoring center to address student needs. This ministry is still in the beginning phases. A task force was created, headed by Athena Hart and Kasandra Graf, in which a plan detailing scheduling and roles/responsibilities/expectations for students and tutors was developed. Currently, three students and eight tutors have signed up to participate in this ministry with goal of beginning implementation in January 2015. Additional students and tutors continue to be sought.

In December the In Reach Committee hosted a Birthday Party for Jesus, providing an interactive way for young children to understand that Christmas is Jesus’ birthday. A birthday party, complete with lunch, crafts, a party game, face painting, the Christmas story, and of course birthday cake and singing were enjoyed by many families.

The In Reach committee had an eventful year, welcoming the introduction of a new ministry, Tutoring, and continuing to support the Ministers of Communion from the Assembly as well as host the Birthday Party for Jesus. In the upcoming year, the In Reach committee hopes to grow in ministry programs as well as lift up a leader to serve the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Amy Brittain*  
**Council Liaison to In Reach Committee**

## **INREACH—“BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS” REPORT**

On December 7th the *InReach* 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*

## **MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**

The Men's fellowship breakfast group has been meeting at Sammy's Bar & Grill located on Rt. 47 north of Main St. at 9:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. All men are welcome to join the breakfast group. It is a good way to meet and form new friendships. We do not follow a special topic of discussion—just good fellowship and food. Everyone seems to enjoy the time together. We always like to see new faces in our group, and we have had several new men come to meet us for breakfast. We welcome all men to our table – members and non-members of SOTP.

Come and join us for fellowship and food in 2015.

—*Ferdie Kimminau*      *Chris Trodahl*  
**Fellowship Coordinator**      **Assistant Coordinator**

## **OUTREACH/WELCOME**

The Outreach Ministry Committee was led at the beginning of the year by Barb Hoch. Over the summer months Mike Yndestad took over as chairman. The ministry is currently in need of more planners and volunteers to support the events that SOTP participates in with the Huntley community.

In 2014 the Outreach Team organized the Shepherd of the Prairie booth at the Huntley Expo. Our booth included games, prizes, and information about the fellowship and ministries of our church family. We created a “Welcome” brochure featuring pictures of many of the ministries offered at SOTP. We shared our love for Jesus by inviting the community to attend Vacation Bible School this summer.

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 SOTP parade participant with a white t-shirt. On the front of the shirt is a red stop sign with the letters SOTP. We all had a great time as we marched down Main Street.

We continued to Reach-Out to the community as we participated in the Huntley's Family Fun Day. Led by Janice Shuff, Donna Kelly and Jim McGuine our booth included information about SOTP worship services and ministries of our church. The children loved the face painting that Janice offered and we also had games and prizes. This Fourth of July weekend activity 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.

Our church participated in Huntley's annual Fall Fest for the first time in 2014. At the SOTP Fall Fest booth Alice Hallett displayed and sold crafts for the church. Adam Adams and Mike Yndestad made popcorn which was Distributed by Donna Kelly, Jules Pelka, Lisa Adams and other church members in Red and white plastic cups and Frisbees that Adam Adams had made with Outreach funding displaying the church logo and mission statement.

The Outreach Ministry Committee continues to work on refinements. We have restarted an initiative to get more news stories in the local papers featuring Shepherd of the Prairie ministry and mission work. The Outreach Ministry Committee agreed upon creating travel mugs to hand out during Christmas services this



year that featured the church logo and mission statement. The committee further agreed that these travel mugs would have the same branding and appearance as the Fall Fest giveaways. The Outreach Committee also discussed the potential of starting a Shepherd of the Prairie Lifetree Café. This would consist of a subscription to small group discussion materials and scheduling a neutral meeting site in the community to meet with local citizens to engage in a nondenominational Christian discussions about current social issues. The committee has also discussed hosting a Build a Snowman Contest during the 2015 winter months at the church as well as sponsoring a family movie night at Deicke Park over the summer months of next year.

The Shepherd of the Prairie Outreach Ministry Committee will continue participating in Huntley annual events. We continue to encourage those who worship at SOTP to be a good neighbors 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 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. The community can see what a great church family we have as we work together to tell others about Jesus.

—*Mike Yndestad*  
**Outreach Chairman**

## **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 2014, Shepherd of the Prairie welcomed new members in February, May, 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*

## **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:**

Women have many opportunities to become involved in small group ministries at SOTP and support the purpose state 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".*

Facilitators for WELCA programs for 2014 were Barbara Pagano, Janice Shuff, Michelle Rankin, and Donna Sorensen.

For the year of 2014, women met many times under the umbrella of WELCA: general meetings, the Annual Retreat, Quilting and Prayer Shawl work days, Prairie Crafters, Chatters Book Group, Helping Hands and Bible study.

- The Annual Spring Retreat "Lord, Teach Me to Pray" was held on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> with Pastor Bill Waxenberg facilitating the workshop.
- A Holiday Fashion show and Luncheon was held on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Christopher & Banks presented holiday fashions following a luncheon catered by Tropical Smoothie Cafe.
- Our general meeting in September had Gayle Barnard presenting a book talk, *Little Boy Lost*, ending with an invitation to join Chatters Book group for more "reads".

Opportunity for Bible study are rounded out with the weekly Friends Bible Study that meets on Mondays, a monthly circle, Mary-Martha Circle, and studies offered at adult education under Pastor Bill Waxenberg.

In submitting this report, our financial report suggests dispersing funds to WELCA and Katie's Fund in January. We see women involved in many mission ministries uplifted by SOTP's Mission Committee locally and abroad. A continued goal would be to continue support in this area. Fellowship opportunities abound whenever we are together. As Shepherd of The Prairie continues to grow, new small groups for women are always needed. The board's hope is to meet with Donna Kelly and Pastors Mark and Bill for new programs and prayerfully consider how WELCA can support women of Shepherd of the Prairie.

Sincerely submitted

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

## **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 from the book "*Angels*" by Douglas Connelly. Everyone has questions about angels and we discovered the answers to such questions as Do angels have wings and fly? Do they protect us from accidents? Will we become angels? Misconceptions about angels abound. This study showed us what the Bible really says about God's angels and about fallen angels. We discovered the wonderful ministry angels have in our lives.

In the spring we all are looking forward to a fieldtrip to the world's largest Angel Museum in Beloit, Wisconsin. The museum features the Berg Angel Collection numbering over 13,600 angels. The museum is also home to over 600 black angels donated by Oprah Winfrey. The angels were gifts from her fans.

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*

## Property Ministries

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The property team is a small group of dedicated and motivated individuals that are responsible for the church buildings and grounds. This group of behind the scenes individuals, who work when you don't even know they are around. While we are honored to have a great facility, much work is needed to keep it a safe, clean facility for all to meet and worship.

A few of the most visible projects completed this year:

- Parking lot was sealed, and re-lined.
- New playground equipment was installed
- When you arrive at church each Sunday and the lot is cleared of snow, your property team was here
- When you enter the building and you see a clean building to worship in, your property team was here.
- When you worship, knowing the life safety equipment in our church is operation properly, your property team was here.
- As you look around the building and grounds think about the hundreds of issues that need to be addressed, your property team was here.

Please consider joining the Property Team ministry and help us maintain our beautiful worship home.

We meet the second Monday each month at 7:00 p.m. If interested, please leave a note in the church office or contact Jerry Christopherson (cell # 630-730-0558)

God Bless,

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

# Administrative Support Ministries

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## GIFTS & MEMORIALS

### Memorial Fund Committee Report 2014

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 – debt reduction. 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 2014 the church received memorials totaling \$9135.00 for Debt Reduction.

The memorials were given in loving memory of the following:

Phyllis Anderson	Orlyn Schuette
Judy Spencer	Norman Evans
Carol McCuen	Ted Wachowiak
Jerry Warnke	Brother of Brigitte Pelka
	Betty Schmietendorf

A handbell was given by Larry & Donna Newbanks to honor granddaughter, Amanda Juergensen.

—*Susan Wehnes*

**for the Memorial Committee**

## NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY

Twelve issues of the SOTP Newsletter went out this year to church members and friends. Many go by email, but for those who prefer, copies are sent by post office, The latter are printed in the church office and assembled by volunteers usually on the last Friday of each month. Assemblers are contacted by Helen Fenzan (three per month) who do the work in about an hour. If you are interested in being a part of the assembly team, please call Helen at 847-961-6591, and she will add your name(s). (could be husband and wife, friends, or meet someone new)..to the calling list which can vary month to month. Thanks to all volunteers in the past year and upcoming year in this much-needed ministry for keeping people informed.

# Congregation Support Ministries

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## HUMAN RESOURCES

2014 has been a stable year for Shepherd of the Prairie's staff and management. The Human Resource Committee has been able to work with the Church Council to identify a professional personnel resource asset for Shepherd of the Prairie. This resource will provide immediate assistance in many areas for our management and staff. It will also provide a solid base for future growth as needed. In addition, it will provide benefits for our employees that our Church would be unable to provide alone. As we look forward to 2015 and beyond, we are confident our management and staff are well equipped for Shepherd of the Prairie's future.

—*John Boehler*

**Human Resource Chair**

## FINANCE TEAM

The Finance Team is responsible for overseeing the day to day and month to month financial activities of the church. The team consists of four Council appointed representatives plus the church Treasurer who acts as our liaison to Council. Members of the team are Don Schneider, Jim Henley, Devin Burg, George Sebastian and Rich Juergensen. We monitor financial activities throughout the month and meet monthly to review all financial reports. We report monthly to the Church Council with our analysis of the church's financial position as well as with any recommendations that we think appropriate. We are responsible for the preparation of the church's annual budget and the review of our actual financial activities against that budget. We serve at the pleasure of the Church Council and are subject to their direction.

This past year we have focused on several items in addition to our oversight. In late 2012 through 2013 the church went through the process of converting our accounting system from Quick Books to Church Windows. This was not an easy process. In 2014 we have focused on identifying and resolving many kinks in that process. We have also identified several areas of concern and introduced policies and procedures to insure the accurate reporting and recording of financial activities. We'd especially like to recognize and thank Michelle Rankin not only for her efforts to learn the accounts payables software and processes, but also for her efforts in controlling expenses this past year.

In 2014 we also revised our budget preparation process. We began this process in July by providing all staff members and team leaders with a budget worksheet form and instructions. In August and September we met individually with each staff member and team leader to discuss their needs for 2015. This allowed us to provide Council with a preliminary budget in October, avoiding the end of year rush and allowing for more input and discussion with staff and leadership.

The Finance Team monitors expenses against budget and periodically meets with staff or leaders to discuss such items. The Finance Team Chairman and Church Treasurer communicate regularly throughout each month regarding accounting entries, reconciliations and monthly reports.

In addition to the above we are responsible for periodically reviewing the church's insurance coverage and policies, reviewing contracts for services, being alert to compliance issues, reporting any concerns to the Church Council, and assisting with an audit of the church's accounting records.

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, and as the Treasurer's Report shows, we have enjoyed a successful year.

Respectfully,

*Don Schneider*

**Chair, Finance Team**

## STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Team: Kathy Dahl, Enrique Rojas, Jerry Bergman, Warren Brody, Darren Walloch, & Ralph Wehnes. Council Liaison: Bob McDuffee

The Stewardship Team met several times during 2014. We arranged to have Thrivent Financial conduct two workshops in June titled “Charitable Giving”. Over 20 SOTP Members attended the two sessions. Then in October, Thrivent Financial sponsored a meal on Wednesday evening and gave information to Conformation parents. We started working on the 2015 Pledge Drive in August. Most of the program was similar to last year. There were four “Temple Talks” by Members of SOTP leading up to “Commitment Weekend” in November.

By the end of the year we had received 237 pledges for the General Fund that totaled \$482,419.00. This is a 7.6% increase over 2014. We also received 175 pledged for the Building Fund that totaled \$198,815.00. This is a 4.9% decrease over 2014. The on line “Estimate of Giving” form was available again this year, and 101 members used it for their pledge. There were nine additional households that signed up for the “Simply Giving” electronic funds transfer program. That brings our total up to 57 households. We also ordered and issued offering envelopes for 2015.

I want to thank the fifteen members that have 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 secretaries that post our offerings to the correct accounts.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Ralph Wehnes*

**Stewardship Committee Chairman**

# 2015 Nominating Committee Report

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## 2014 NOMINATING TEAM MEMBERS

- Don Koerner
- Carol Waxenberg
- Ron Mudge
- Pam Fender
- Pastor Mark Boster

## COUNCIL NOMINEES – to be elected to serve a three year term ending January 2018

- Marlene Boehler (*1<sup>st</sup> 3 year term*)
- Cliff Dungey (*1<sup>st</sup> 3 year term*)
- Matt Greene (*1<sup>st</sup> 3 year term*)

## 2015 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- Mary Conti
- Renae Greene
- Kathy McGuine
- Roy Rankin
- Jim Rhode
- Wayne Schmidt

## AUDIT TEAM

- Phil Turk

## SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

- Jamie Patel
- Steve Legel

## CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS AND TERMS

<b>Years Remaining In Term</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Adam Adams (1)	Jim Henley (1)
Amy Britton (1)	Mike McCann (2)
Larry Newbanks (2)	Bob McDuffee (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.*

# Proposed changed to the Constitution of Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church, Huntley, IL

## Chapter 10 Congregational Meeting

- C 10.04 20 percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.
- C 10.05 Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.
- C 10.06 All actions approved by the congregation shall be by majority vote of those members present and voting, except as otherwise provided in this constitution or by state law.

### Proposed Resolution:

SOTP strives for high levels of member participation in the affairs of the church. This is reflected in our constitution that requires a quorum of 20% of members for a congregational meeting. However, due to our increasing membership and space limitations it is becoming more difficult to meet the 20% quorum requirement. Failure to meet this requirement could impact SOTP's ability to make important decisions on its future ministries. Thus the Congregational Council is proposing the following resolution:

**Be it resolved** that SOTP amends its constitution to change its quorum requirement for a congregational meeting from 20% to 10% by amending paragraph C 10.04 as follows:

- C 10.04. 10 percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum effective May 25, 2015.



# 2015 Budget

## Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church 2015 Budget

Acct. No.	Account Name	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget
<b>Income</b>				
4.100.000	Member Contributions <sup>1</sup>	470,000.00	499,387.49	525,000.00
4.150.000	Loose Plate & Growth	41,735.00	26,040.49	25,000.00
4.200.000	Miscellaneous Income <sup>2</sup>	-	4,676.76	1,000.00
4.250.000	Flower Income	3,000.00	2,492.25	2,500.00
4.300.000	Interest Income	600.00	218.17	200.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 515,335.00</b>	<b>\$ 532,815.16</b>	<b>\$ 553,700.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Mission Ministry</b>				
5.100.110	ELCA N. Illinois Synod <sup>3</sup>	47,000.00	47,000.00	52,500.00
5.100.111	Good Samaritan <sup>4</sup>	1,000.00	697.64	-
5.100.112	Local Mission <sup>5</sup>	4,700.00	4,650.04	5,250.00
5.100.113	Mission Ministry - Other	-	-	-
	<b>Total Misson Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 52,700.00</b>	<b>\$ 52,347.68</b>	<b>\$ 57,750.00</b>
<b>Outreach Ministry</b>				
5.150.100	Outreach/Evangelism <sup>6</sup>	6,000.00	7,269.38	4,000.00
5.150.150	Advertising	5,000.00	3,515.32	4,000.00
5.150.250	Outreach Ministry - Other	500.00	941.02	500.00
5.150.300	Lay Ministry Expenses	-	-	500.00
	<b>Total Outreach Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 11,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,725.72</b>	<b>\$ 9,000.00</b>
<b>Adult Education Ministry</b>				
5.200.000	Adult Ed Books/Reimbursement	2,000.00	976.13	1,200.00
5.200.300	Adult Ed Curriculum	400.00	595.59	200.00
5.200.350	Retreat Expense	1,000.00	200.98	-
5.200.400	Other Adult Education	100.00	766.50	800.00
5.200.450	Home Devotional Guides	-	127.92	200.00
	<b>Total Adult Education</b>	<b>\$ 3,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,667.12</b>	<b>\$ 2,400.00</b>
<b>Youth Education Ministry</b>				
5.250.100	Youth Resources	2,500.00	898.91	1,500.00
5.250.150	Youth Curriculum	1,000.00	666.54	1,000.00
5.250.200	Youth Trip Expenses	2,800.00	390.65	1,000.00
5.250.250	Youth Retreats Expense	1,500.00	43.74	1,000.00
5.250.275	Software/ Subscriptions	1,500.00	1,630.04	1,800.00
5.250.280	Confirmation Expenses	3,500.00	5,219.29	3,500.00
5.250.285	Sunday School Expenses	1,000.00	2,065.72	1,500.00
5.250.290	VBS Expenses	3,500.00	3,239.86	3,000.00
5.250.300	Other Youth Expenses	800.00	1,016.56	1,000.00
	<b>Total Youth Education</b>	<b>\$ 18,100.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,171.31</b>	<b>\$ 15,300.00</b>

## 2015 Budget (cont)

### Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church 2015 Budget

Acct. No.	Account Name	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget
	<b>Music Ministry</b>			
5.300.100	Choral Expenses	2,100.00	1,828.25	1,300.00
5.300.160	Saturday Service Organist <sup>7</sup>	5,200.00	4,700.00	-
5.300.161	Organ/Piano Supply	-	-	250.00
5.300.175	Bells Expenses	1,500.00	1,543.83	1,200.00
5.300.350	Band Expenses	2,300.00	4,091.82	4,000.00
5.300.400	Piano/Organ Maintenance	700.00	483.24	700.00
5.300.450	Bell Maintenance	250.00	-	250.00
5.300.500	Licensing Fees	750.00	735.00	750.00
5.300.550	Music Resources Expense	300.00	147.72	300.00
	<b>Total Music Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 13,100.00</b>	<b>\$ 13,529.86</b>	<b>\$ 8,750.00</b>
	<b>Worship Ministry</b>			
5.350.100	Audio Visual Ministry	1,500.00	1,982.23	1,500.00
5.350.150	Flowers	3,000.00	2,920.47	2,500.00
5.350.200	Altar Guild	1,000.00	398.29	500.00
5.350.250	Pastoral Assistance	1,200.00	1,350.00	1,500.00
5.350.300	Worship Supplies	750.00	648.51	750.00
5.350.350	Misc. Worship Expense	350.00	18.88	-
	<b>Total Worship Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 7,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,318.38</b>	<b>\$ 6,750.00</b>
	<b>Facilities</b>			
5.400.100	Cleaning Services	7,500.00	6,520.00	7,580.00
5.400.150	Utilities	9,000.00	9,252.39	10,000.00
5.400.200	Waste Removal	1,700.00	1,928.53	1,700.00
5.400.250	Lawn Care/Snow Removal	7,000.00	17,657.36	10,500.00
5.400.300	Maint./Cleaning Supplies	750.00	654.95	750.00
5.400.350	Contract Services	4,100.00	4,730.19	4,700.00
5.400.400	Misc. Facilities Expens	450.00	165.22	300.00
	<b>Total Facilities</b>	<b>\$ 30,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 40,908.64</b>	<b>\$ 35,530.00</b>
	<b>Office Expenses</b>			
5.450.100	Office Supplies	9,600.00	3,540.94	3,500.00
5.450.150	Office Equipment	600.00	-	-
5.450.200	Web/Software Expense	1,500.00	4,089.32	3,500.00
5.450.250	Telephone	2,400.00	2,086.69	2,000.00
5.450.275	Wireless Phone	-	1,392.06	1,300.00
5.450.300	Postage	2,000.00	1,737.35	1,500.00
5.450.350	Dues & Subscriptions	600.00	144.00	150.00
5.450.400	Equipment Rental <sup>8</sup>	7,000.00	14,219.51	16,000.00
5.450.450	Misc. Office Expense	300.00	114.01	250.00
	<b>Total Office Expense</b>	<b>\$ 24,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 27,323.88</b>	<b>\$ 28,200.00</b>

## 2015 Budget (cont)

### Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church 2015 Budget

Acct. No.	Account Name	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget
	<b>Staffing Ministry</b>			
5.500.100	Pastor Salary	53,333.00	54,112.12	55,787.00
5.500.150	Pastor Housing allowance	32,960.00	31,999.92	32,880.00
5.500.200	Lay Ministry Coordinator <sup>9</sup>	7,300.00	10,457.54	20,085.00
5.500.250	Youth Ministry Coordinator	37,456.00	37,376.78	38,486.00
5.500.300	Director of Music	32,225.00	35,603.54	37,841.00
5.500.350	Organist <sup>10</sup>	12,731.00	12,699.90	19,215.00
5.500.400	Technical Support Manager	26,157.00	26,119.32	26,721.00
5.500.450	Office Manager	13,349.00	12,317.25	13,892.00
5.500.500	Director of Adult Education	34,824.00	34,743.68	35,782.00
5.500.525	Audio Visual Coordinator	7,200.00	7,200.00	7,398.00
5.500.550	Staff Training/Continuing Ed.	4,000.00	3,678.84	6,000.00
5.500.600	Staff Social Security	16,000.00	13,380.81	17,286.00
5.500.650	Pastor Insurance & Soc. Sec.	43,000.00	41,678.85	47,250.00
5.500.675	Payroll Processing Expense	2,200.00	1,626.40	2,200.00
5.500.700	Misc. Staff Expense	2,500.00	1,412.20	2,000.00
5.500.750	Pastor's Continuing Ed.	1,000.00	290.54	-
	<b>Total Staffing Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 326,235.00</b>	<b>\$ 324,697.69</b>	<b>\$ 362,823.00</b>
	<b>Other Church Expenses</b>			
5.550.100	Scholarships	1,200.00	-	-
5.550.110	Kitchen Supplies	-	1,016.54	1,000.00
5.550.125	Church Events Expense	-	619.64	500.00
5.550.150	Committee Expenses	3,000.00	1,126.79	3,000.00
5.550.200	Church Insurance	7,900.00	8,261.50	8,222.00
5.550.250	Automobile Expense	4,200.00	4,990.15	5,000.00
5.550.300	Human Resources <sup>11</sup>	500.00	265.95	5,500.00
5.550.350	Bank/Legal Expenses	600.00	792.27	800.00
5.550.175	Synod Assembly Expense	-	-	1,000.00
5.550.400	Misc. Expenses	1,000.00	71.15	100.00
	<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 18,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 17,143.99</b>	<b>\$ 25,122.00</b>
	<b>Providing for the Future</b>			
5.600.100	Provision for Outreach	750.00	1,600.00	750.00
5.600.150	Provision for Inreach	550.00	1,075.00	550.00
5.600.200	Provision for Equipment	1,000.00	2,250.00	1,000.00
5.600.250	Provision for Maintenance	3,000.00	6,140.00	6,000.00
5.600.300	Provision for Bldg. & Grounds	3,000.00	6,140.00	6,000.00
5.600.350	Provision for Sabbatical	1,200.00	2,775.89	1,200.00
	<b>Total Future Provisions</b>	<b>\$ 9,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 19,980.89</b>	<b>\$ 15,500.00</b>
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 515,335.00</b>	<b>\$ 532,815.16</b>	<b>\$ 567,125.00</b>
	<b>Surplus or (Deficit) <sup>12</sup></b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (13,425.00)</b>

## 2015 Budget (cont)

### Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church 2015 Budget

Acct. No.	Account Name	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget

#### Footnotes

1. Member Contributions are calculated based on pledges received and historical giving patterns.
2. Miscellaneous Income in 2014 was significantly higher than normal due to a one time adjustment from prior years.
3. ELCA Northern Illinois Synod Mission is 10% of member contributions.
4. Good Samaritan assistance will be provided from the separate Good Samaritan Restricted Fund.
5. Local Mission is 1% of member contributions.
6. Outreach/Evangelism also draws from the separate Outreach/Evangelism Restricted Fund.
7. The Saturday Service Organist expense has been moved to Staffing Ministry and added to the Organist Expense.
8. Equipment Rental (Copy Machine Lease) was inadequately budgeted in 2014.
9. Lay Ministry Coordinator's hours have increased from 10-15 hrs./week to 25 hrs./week.
10. Organist salary includes Saturday Services previously paid from Music budget.
11. Human Resources has contracted with ADP for one year to review and update our employment policies and compliance.
12. Though this budget shows a deficit of \$13,425.00 (2% of Expenses), the actual outcome is dependent on many factors. Income may well exceed our expectations, as it did in 2014. Leadership and Staff will carefully monitor expenses and make adjustments as necessary. Reserves are adequate to cover this relatively small deficit if necessary.

Thank you to the entire congregation for your generous support of the mission of Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church.