



Shepherd
OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Report

January 24, 2016

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

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

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Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Annual Meeting

January 24, 2016

I. Call to Order

II. Quorum Call

III. Opening Prayer

IV. Looking Back

1. Approval of Minutes from January 25, 2015
2. Approval of Committee and Ministry Reports
3. Approval of 2015 Financial Reports
4. Recognition of Outgoing Council Member

Larry Newbanks

V. Celebration of Ministry - Video

VI. Looking Ahead

1. Purpose Statement, Guiding Principles and Strategic Directions
2. Staffing Introductions
3. January 11 Leadership Retreat Update

VII. Elections

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

VIII. Approval of 2016 Budget

IX. Closing Prayer

X. 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, 2nd by Donna Kelly. Voted on and approved.

Committee and Ministry Reports

Motion to accept the reports were made by Marlene Boehler. 2nd 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. 2nd 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. 2nd 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, 2nd 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. 2nd 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. 2nd 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, 2nd 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. 2nd 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. 2nd by Ferdie Kimminau. Motion voted on and approved.

Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

Meeting adjourned – 12:58pm

Submitted by,

Mike McCann

Pastor's Report to the Congregation

January, 2016

"Caring for God's children of all ages, by growing disciples, who make disciples." Our statement of purpose speaks well to which we are called as God's people at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church. These words may not always be on our lips as we endeavor to live for Christ through the church, but I am always amazed at how this statement bears fruit each year in our journey together.

We encourage you to read through this Annual Report. Through it you will capture a snapshot of all that God has done through us as a community of faith to transform lives and make Christ known.

This year for my report to the congregation, I don't want to necessarily look back as much as forward to what God's has in store for us as well as a reminder of our Lutheran heritage.

"Salvation by faith alone." Martin Luther did not always believe that. If he had, he might never have gone into the priesthood.

Many of you know that famous story. The year was 1505. Luther was traveling from his home to the university at Erfurt, Germany. In his heart he was struggling with his relationship with God. Would he be acceptable if he were to appear before the Judgement seat of God? He wondered. Suddenly a violent thunderstorm filled the sky. A bolt of lightning struck. He was thrown breathless and terrified to the ground. He cried out: "Saint Anna, save me!" He was so fearful he made a vow: if his life were spared, he would become a monk.

That's not so uncommon, is it? Is there anyone of us who has not made a promise to God in a time of great distress? Luther was a young man of character, though. He kept his promise. To the anguish of his family who wanted him to be a wealthy lawyer, he entered the priesthood. With sadness and apprehension, he left his home and made his way to a monastery named "The Black Cloister."

It was a troubling time for Luther. He had said goodbye to family and friends, he had thrown off all his worldly possessions and pretensions, he had entered the restricted and reverent life of a monk, but still he felt the terrible weight of his sins. Perhaps he wasn't doing enough. Perhaps he should give himself to more self-denial, more discipline, more fasting, more praying, more reading of Holy Scripture. And he did and still the fear of damnation and eternal torture haunted him. He read the Bible constantly, but what he read there only made him feel more strongly God's righteousness and his own wretched sinfulness. He repented of his sins as best he knew how, but found it impossible to believe that he was really pardoned.

Then, seven years after forsaking the outside world for the cloistered life of a monk, Martin Luther was sent to Rome to transact some business with the pope. This was a high moment of expectation for him. He was going to what he imagined to be the center of both piety and power for the church he loved.

Surprise. When Martin Luther arrived in Rome, he received a terrible revelation. Instead of finding a church of exemplary devotion and conduct, he discovered a very worldly church weighted down by corruption. His mind and heart went reeling. How often that has happened to idealistic young men and women when they discover that the church they love is not always what the church ought to be.

A shaken Luther made his way to the cathedral and began climbing the Scala Sancta, the "sacred stairs." As he climbed the stairs he kissed each step as was the custom. In a few minutes a verse of Scripture began to ring out in his memory, "The just shall live by faith the just shall live by faith." (Romans 1:17) What was he doing kissing these stairs? he wondered. "The just shall live by faith." Thus began a transformation of Luther's heart and life. It was a transformation that was to shake the Christian world forever. Later he would write: "It was as if the gates swung open, and I entered into paradise."

Luther went on to lead the Protestant Reformation, as you know. He also made an important contribution to German literature with his translation of the Bible. He wrote more than four hundred works, from pamphlets to large books. He wrote catechisms for the common people and introduced singing by the congregation. Of the 125 hymns that he wrote, the best known is "A Mighty Fortress is our God."

Quite a string of accomplishments for a young man who entered the priesthood because he was afraid of lightning.

Well, you ask, why have I spent the first part of this report on the topic of our brother Martin. The answer... we are approaching the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, November 31, 2017. Planning for wonderful celebrations and learning will begin this year in anticipation for this important historical event.

And yet, half a millennium after Luther, there are many followers of Christ who still have not made the discovery that transformed Luther's life.

This is both our challenge and opportunity as God's people. Thank you for your generous support to our shared ministry at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church. This Annual Report and the Annual Meeting of the Congregation is an opportunity to celebrate the work of transforming lives and inviting people into an ever growing relationship with Christ. I think it is however important that we remember our name. Shepherd of the Prairie **Lutheran** Church.

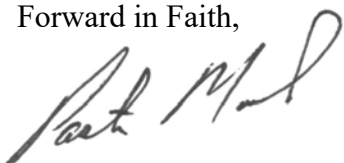
Somewhere I read about the manager of an opera house who received a telephone call from a woman following a performance. She had lost a diamond pin. Might it still be in the theater? The manager asked her to wait on the line while they looked in the area where she had been seated. Sure enough, in a few minutes someone came across the beautiful piece of jewelry. When the manager returned to the phone to tell the lady the good news, the line was dead. She had hung up. Amazingly, she never called back, either. Though the pin had been found, the manager was unable to return it to her.

One of Martin Luther's foundational teachings was a challenge to the church of all people having direct access to a gracious God. We don't have to go through or pray to anyone else than our heavenly Father and the Son, Jesus Christ. I pray we recognize this wonderful gift and passionately continue our growth as disciples of Christ. Prayer, worship, reading the Bible, finding our place to serve and be Christ in the world. These are the tools given us to grow deep and strong in our faith walk with Christ.

Somebody once said that Columbus discovered a new world, Copernicus discovered a new heaven, and Luther, a new God a God gracious for the sake of the work of Christ. Salvation is by faith alone. Believe on Him and you will be saved.

May our gracious God continue to guide and direct us to live by faith alone. May we be inspired to show care and continue to grow passionate followers of Christ through the church. This is our high calling as we continue to follow the reforming tradition of our Lutheran heritage.

Forward in Faith,

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

Pastor Mark

Director of Adult Education

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. (Isaiah 60:1)

These words, which come from the Old Testament reading for the Epiphany of Our Lord, celebrate the light of Christ that shines on all people, Jew and Gentile alike. It is the eternal light of God that shines upon us. And this light, which no darkness can overcome, floods into our hearts so that our life with Christ becomes brighter and brighter the more we immerse ourselves in God's good Word. This is what adult education is intended to facilitate. And hopefully we have done that!

We began the calendar year of 2015 with a new schedule, meeting three times each week: on Sunday mornings at 10:20, and on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 and Wednesday evenings at 7:00.

Our first study was Isaiah 40-55, those amazing grace-filled chapters that begin with gospel words, "Comfort, comfort my people..." Then, during Lent, we followed Bible scholar Ray Vander Laan's video as he led us on "The Path to the Cross." This was followed by six weeks on the Book of Revelation. Then followed a summer hiatus. September began by immersing ourselves in the first eleven chapters of Genesis and then a Bible study on proportionate and sacrificial giving in conjunction with our capital fund appeal.

A new and exciting class began in October thanks to the deep commitment of Chuck and Sharon Little: "Active Christian Parenting." Chuck and Sharon have taught this class on several occasions previously, and nineteen participants benefited from their wisdom and experience. We look forward to them offering this class again in 2016.

Also in 2016, we'll inaugurate the year with an in-depth study of "Sacred Words," those words from Scripture that form our life of faith—words like law and gospel, sin and righteousness, grace and faith, hope and salvation, heaven and hell.

This will be followed by a six-week Lenten study titled "Death and Dying with Hope." Not only will we explore our cultural and theological understandings of death and dying, but we'll have guest presenters as well: an attorney who will talk about wills and estate planning; a doctor who will talk about her experiences working with dying patients and their families; a professional from Hospice Care; and a funeral home director to talk about what happens when the need for their services arises. We'll conclude our study by looking at our Lutheran funeral service.

And following Easter? That's yet to be decided! So too for the fall of 2016. Stay tuned!

Once again, it has been such a blessing for me to be with you at Shepherd of the Prairie! I am so thankful to be working with such a committed and talented staff and a congregation that seeks to immerse itself in the Light.

—Pastor Bill Waxenberg

Director of Adult Education

Lay Ministry/New Member Coordinator

This year we hosted four New Member Gatherings; in February, May, August and October where we welcomed 70 Adults and 18 children into our family here at SOTP. These new members have become integral parts of the ministry here at SOTP and no longer seem to be new members, but old friends and partners.

This year we have started several new ministries. The first is a Grief Ministry which sends books to those members who are dealing with loss and grief due to the death of a loved one. Four booklets are sent during the first year which are very “in touch” with the grieving process and offer ideas on how to view the changes and stages as they are experienced. The second is a Caring Caller Ministry which contacts members after a hospitalization or illness to let them know they are cared about and to see if they have a need we can help to address. The third new ministry is Baptismal Care. Cards and information are sent to parents of newly baptized infants for the first three years welcoming them into our family here and with ideas for parents to use to celebrate that day. We have also begun a “Suppers With Luther” class to enable people who do not come from a Lutheran background or for whom Confirmation was a long time ago to learn about Luther and what we as ELCA Lutherans believe and practice.

In order to find ways to be more efficient we invited Ed Cuttle to take over the day to day running of our Church Windows membership data base. He and I worked together to ask members to go on line and complete the Ministry Interest form so we could set up ministry data bases. While only about half of our members did so, we were still able to begin to set up that data base. During the first quarter of 2016, we plan to ask each member to update their basic information (address, phone, cell phone, email, children’s birthdays etc) so we can make sure our church data base has all of the correct information.

As I look forward to this coming year, I pray that as we look forward to the changes in our facilities here at SOTP, we keep foremost in our sight our commitment to bring Christ and his kingdom to the people in our community as well as those within our membership. 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

Youth and Family Ministry Annual Report

Shepherd of the Prairie's Youth and Family Ministries continues to hold to five 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 2015 Accomplishments

- 18 Students confirmed in Rite of Affirmation of Baptism
- 70 Students enrolled in Confirmation
- Changed confirmation curriculum from "re:form" to "Collaborate" a more engaging curriculum from Sparkhouse Publishing, part of Augsburg Fortress.
- Taught 6th and 7th grade students in sanctuary
- Taught 8th grade students in large Sunday School room
- Used every room in church (including sanctuary) for small groups
- 52 Confirmation participants attended 2015 Fall Confirmation Retreat at Lutheran Outdoors Ministries Center in Oregon, Illinois
- Each confirmation small group volunteers on the 1st 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 233 (a new record!) boxes for Operation Christmas Child
- 38 participants attended Creation Restoration 5.0 in Stearns, Kentucky doing home repair and white water rafting.
- Trivia Night fundraiser for Creation Restoration 5.0 was a huge success!
- 2 students and 7 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 2016

- Attending Feed My Starving Children in April, 2016
- Creation Restoration 6.0 mission trip in June. Colorado is our destination.
- Planning for Trivia Night for Creation Restoration 6.0.
- Continuing our partnership with Lifest to handle their recycling.
- Confirming 29 8th 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

—*Greg Dowell*

Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Congregational Council Report

The Council, staff and key Ministry leaders met in January 2015 to review the Strategic Directions and establish preliminary goals for 2015. Many good ideas and concepts came from this meeting.

The Council then reviewed these goals to ensure they aligned with our Strategic Directions at our February meeting and began putting into motion for 2015. 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 activities to be accomplished in 2015.

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 Centegra leaders to investigate forming a partnership of religious congregations that can provide services to Centegra patients.

- *Pastor Mark and Adam Adams met with the Centegra Human Resources team to discuss various volunteer opportunities that may become available when the hospital opens. We've followed up with the staff and will maintain contact with them as the hospital opens to determine how and when our services will be needed.*

Continue supporting 2014 partnership initiatives.

- *No additional meetings with D158 area clergy were held this year. SOTP partnered with Trinity Lutheran and St. Mary's and Willow Creek in May to perform landscaping duties at Green Trees housing complex. SOTP then went back in late August to complete additional landscaping projects.*

Initiate contact with Huntley Police Department to investigate creating a partnership to provide resources to HPD for training to assist in supporting, consoling and counseling families in crisis.

- *We have reached out to the new Chief of Police to see if we can begin discussions on this project in 2016*

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

Continue to develop the homework/tutoring center

- *Through the end of the spring semester, we had several students take advantage of the tutoring program. The fall semester has volunteers to tutor students but has not had any students take advantage of the free tutoring offered. We will continue to communicate that this program is available.*

Expand Children's Music Ministry to children outside of SOTP's members

- *The staff has reviewed and is discussing the opportunity to have a music or band camp in the summer of 2016.*

Baptismal Follow Up

- *We have a member of the congregation that has volunteered to send follow up communication to families with newly baptized children. Monthly communication is being sent out and will continue until the children enter Sunday School.*

Active Christian Parenting

- *23 members of the congregation participated in a 6 week program which began in October. An additional session is planned for Spring 2016.*

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

Continue Summer Book Read

- *52 members participated in this year's read: "Faith, Seeking Your Life in Christ Together" which kicked off with a potluck in June and ended with the potluck in late August.*

Social Activities

- *Multiple social events took place throughout the year including: Trivia night, Annual church picnic, Peder Eide concert, etc.*

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

Nurture existing leaders

- *Donna Kelly has been hosting 'Suppers with Luther' Wed. evenings throughout the fall.*

Create a succession plan and delegation

- *Succession planning for ministry committees has been discussed on several occasions throughout the year during the Ministry Night presentations. Ministry leaders are encouraged to ensure a succession plan is in place for all committees.*

Create a database of talents, gifts and interests of congregation members

- *Donna Kelly and Ed Cuttle worked on this project and have made significant progress on a database within church windows which will allow for committee leaders to identify members that may want to be involved with their committee.*

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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob McDuffee
Council President

Celebration of Pastor Mark's 25th Year of Ordination Sunday, July 12th, 2015

After receiving inquiries about plans to recognize Pastor Mark's 25th anniversary of ordination, the council formed a committee to coordinate the planning and execution of whatever would be done.

The celebration committee core members were:

Melissa Juergensen	Pastor Bill Waxenburg
Sharon Little	Carol Waxenburg
Donna Newbanks (co-chair)	Sue Wehnes
Marina Rhode (co-chair)	Ralph Wehnes
Jim Rhode	Larry Newbanks (Council Liaison)

Of course, numerous other SOTP members were also involved, especially as the celebration date drew near. The celebration would not have been successful without the help of so many.

The first committee meeting was September 4th, 2014. Initial committee meetings were held in members' homes so that Pastor Mark would not be aware of the effort until dates and venue were set. The Committee worked with Annette Boster to insure proposed dates were free for the Boster family and to get names of family, friends and associates outside the SOTP family that should be invited. Annette recommended that inviting Pastor Mark's internship supervisor, Pastor Charles Steinke. Pastor Steinke was delighted to be part of the celebration and presided over all three special services the Sunday of the celebration.

One of the more difficult committee tasks was identifying an appropriate gift for Pastor Mark to commemorate his ordination anniversary. After numerous suggestions were discussed and discarded, the committee hit on the idea of a special fund to provide scholarships for SOTP members who attend seminary to become an ELCA pastor or rostered leader. This fit well with Pastor Mark's past statements encouraging SOTP members to consider seminary. The fund would be in honor of Pastor Mark's 25th year of ordination.

To keep the gift a surprise, all SOTP members were contacted about the surprise gift so that they could honor Pastor Mark's 25th anniversary with a donation to the fund if they wished. It worked, Pastor Mark was totally surprised and delighted when presented with the gift during services on the Sunday of celebration. The current seminary scholarship fund balance is just over \$6000 and demonstrates SOTP's commitment to support members interested in attending seminary.

The celebration on July 12th not only featured special services but also included a reception at the Huntley Park District REC Center. Close to 400 well wishers attended to congratulate Pastor Mark, some traveling from former congregations where Pastor Mark served.

2015 Building Team Report

- **May 3rd:** The congregation voted to undertake the building of a multi-purpose addition on the East side of the existing mission center. The Congregational Council was directed to organize a building team to execute the necessary details to accomplish this building addition.

May 26th: The first meeting was held with the commissioned building team members, consisting of:

- Pastor Mark Boster,
- Jodi Dowell ; Communication Leader
- Cliff Dungey; Council Liaison
- Mark Frendreis; Property Representative
- Deb Hansen; Team chairman
- Bob Malm; Building for Mission Team
- Larry Newbanks; Building Team Chairman 2009
- Don Schneider; Finance Representative

Suggestion box installed, Building Team Link put on SOTP website for members' suggestions.

- **June:** Three architectural firms were interviewed in multiple sessions.
- **July:** Groth Design Group architectural firm from Cedarburg, Wisconsin, was hired to guide the expansion of SOTP's mission footprint due to their vision and their creative collaborative approach.
- **August:** The building team held a successful Visioning Workshop with over 130 members of the congregation to help determine SOTP's mission, vision, and spirit, activities and facilities to best understand the direction of build that would best serve our congregation.

Next, Groth Design Group held a Ministry Team Leaders listening workshop, attended by over 40 key leaders of our congregation. Ideas, wishes, concerns documented.

Shales McNutt is hired to be the SOTP Construction Manager.

- **September:** Meetings held to discuss results of Visioning Workshop, and Ministry Team Meetings.
- **October 6th:** Paul Barribeau met with congregation to present the results of the Visioning Workshop and Ministry Team interviews. Paul introduced the congregation to the vision of building a new sanctuary, a concept that surfaced from the members' responses throughout the listening process.
- **October 25th:** The SOTP congregation voted to approve the change of vision of the building expansion from a multi-purpose room to the focus of building a sanctuary.
- **November:** Meetings with architect Paul Barribeau, GDG, and Bill Wilson from Shales McNutt to discuss floor plans, costs, as well as suggestions from members through suggestion box as well as on website.
- **December:** Progress on conceptual design continues with Paul Barribeau and Bill Wilson. Ways to possibly reduce construction costs are explored. Elevation designs are introduced to the Building Team for the first time. A reveal to the congregation will be planned when more cost information is received, in 2016.

Your SOTP Building Team continues to work to create a sanctuary that will exist within the range of the pledges so generously given by our members to the Forward in Faith campaign.

—*Deb Hansen*

Building Team Chairman

Year End Treasurer's Report

2015 Treasurer's Financial Reports

Jim Henley, Treasurer

Building Fund:

We started 2015 with a loan balance of \$687,915.39, and ended the year with a balance of \$531,208.74 this resulted in a total principal reduction of \$156,706.69 for 2015.

Principal debt reductions were made throughout the year while maintaining a minimum of 4 full monthly payments in reserve.

While our past focus has been to pay this loan down as soon as feasible. Now we are in the planning stages for eventual expansion to further our Church's ministry efforts.

General Fund:

Balance Sheet:

We ended 2015 with a strong cash position. We have \$59,232.58 in unrestricted funds, \$40,319.48 in Restricted Funds, and \$85,844.43 in our Reserve Accounts.

Treasurer's Report (Income Statement):

We finished 2015 with operating income exceeding operating expenses by \$14,846.77. We applied \$15,500.00 to our reserve accounts and plan to carry the remaining balance of \$14,846.77 forward into 2016 to allow for unexpected expenses or ministry opportunities. After accounting for the designation of the reserve accounts, our 2015 year end reflects a balanced budget with the above mentioned surplus. This positive Difference for the year allowed us to fully fund \$15,500.00 to our Provision accounts for 2015

Our Income Statement shows \$559,252.82 which reflects an increase in total income compared to \$ 532,815.16 collected in 2014. The finance team made a change in how we manage prepaid pledges in 2013. 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. On the balance sheet we are carrying forward \$3,000.00 in prepaid pledges for 2016.

Expenses for the year were under budget \$22,718.95. The primary reason for the significant drop in expenses was the reduction in hours in Staffing Ministry. Even though we had slight overages in some of our ministry areas the overage was not of sufficient size to offset the positive effect in the lower staffing costs. .

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.

Year End Treasurer's Report (cont)

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. The projected increase for 2016 is 2.8% above 2015 contributions
2. Expenses in 2015 were significantly lower than normal due to reduction in hours in Staffing Ministry.
3. ELCA Northern Illinois Synod Mission is 10% of member contributions.
4. Local Mission is 1% of member contributions. Does not include special offerings.
5. Equipment Rental (Copy Machine Lease) has been adequately budgeted in 2015 and 2016.
6. Human Resources successfully contracted with ADP for one year to review and update our employment policies and compliance. This process has been completed and we have reduced this commitment to quarterly meetings with payroll processing included in package reducing our overall HR/Payroll processing charges.
7. While we are showing a balanced budget for 2016 you must remember the actual outcome is dependent on pledges being met, our control of expense items, and mitigating factors we may not be able to control. Income may well exceed our expectations, as it did in 2015.
8. Snow removal and lawn care have been separated on 2016 budget to allow better monitoring of these two expense items.
9. There is also a Staffing for Growth line item for future ministry opportunities.
10. Salary increases calculated at 3% for 2016

Contingencies:

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

Reserves and 2015 carry over 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, 2015

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Page 1 of 3

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Previous Year Balance
Assets				
Current Assets				
1.100.000	Heartland Bank Checking	6,086.60	199,267.06	178,147.53
1.200.000	Mission Plus Building Fund Checking	87,050.55	192,880.21	68,931.49
1.250.000	HBT/LPL Investment Account	(37.34)	2.36	20.55
1.400.000	Heartland Bank Youth Account Checking	0.00	0.00	6,569.03
Total Current Assets		\$93,099.81	\$392,149.63	\$253,668.60
Fixed Assets				
1.300.000	Building & Grounds	0.00	1,980,000.00	1,980,000.00
Total Fixed Assets		\$0.00	\$1,980,000.00	\$1,980,000.00
Total Assets		\$93,099.81	\$2,372,149.63	\$2,233,668.60
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
2.000.000	Accounts Payable/Vendors	180.93	180.93	0.00
2.100.000	Prepaid Pledges	0.00	3,000.00	13,863.00
2.200.000	941 Federal Withholding	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.200.100	941 State Withholding	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.200.150	Pastor's FSA Account	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.999.999	Mission Plus Building Fund Checking 2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Current Liabilities		\$180.93	\$3,180.93	\$13,863.00
Long Term Liabilities				
2.200.200	MIF Commercial Loan Payable	(5,273.97)	531,208.74	687,915.39
Total Long Term Liabilities		(\$5,273.97)	\$531,208.74	\$687,915.39
Total Liabilities		(\$5,093.04)	\$534,389.67	\$701,778.39
Fund Balances & Equity				
Unrestricted Fund Balances				
3.100.000	General Fund Balance	(11,456.72)	59,232.58	44,385.81
Total Unrestricted Fund Balances		(\$11,456.72)	\$59,232.58	\$44,385.81
Temporary Restricted Fund Balances				
3.170.000	Special Services Fund Balance	(1,207.00)	1,443.00	1,650.00
3.175.000	Memorial Fund Balance	890.00	3,125.00	1,100.00
3.180.000	Grafton Food Pantry Fund Balance	(1,751.00)	190.00	725.00
3.200.000	Heifer Fund Balance	505.45	1,216.45	1,105.74
3.210.000	Grant Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	255.00

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2015

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Page 2 of 3

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Previous Year Balance
3.220.000	AV Ministry Fund Balance	(157.92)	(253.71)	1,496.33
3.250.000	Good Samaritan Fund Balance	200.00	2,757.04	3,437.67
3.260.000	Evangelism/Outreach Fund Balance	87.00	1,300.01	6,912.77
3.300.000	<i>Music Ministry Fund Balance</i>			
3.330.000	Adult Music Ministry Fund Balance	1,437.00	3,694.63	1,812.63
3.335.000	Bells Ministry Fund Balance Balance	250.00	967.11	N/A
3.345.000	Childrens Music Ministry Fund Balance	0.00	754.00	754.00
	<i>Total Music Ministry Fund Balance</i>	<i>\$1,687.00</i>	<i>\$5,415.74</i>	<i>2,566.63</i>
3.350.000	Prairie Crafters Fund Balance	578.25	1,362.25	691.00
3.360.000	Miscellaneous Fund Balance	0.00	1,827.06	3,919.57
3.370.000	WELCA Fund Balance	0.00	264.01	982.29
3.400.000	<i>Youth Ministry Fund Balance</i>			
3.415.000	Youth Ministry Balance	100.00	2,836.13	2,546.43
3.417.000	Youth Mission Trips Balance	0.00	(9.02)	2,656.72
3.421.000	Youth Scholarship Balance	0.00	2,453.00	2,453.00
3.422.000	Operation Christmas Child Balance	50.00	381.76	166.76
3.423.000	Confirmation Retreat Fund Balance	195.00	(128.53)	838.47
3.424.000	Gift Card Program Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	6,569.03
	<i>Total Youth Ministry Fund Balance</i>	<i>\$345.00</i>	<i>\$5,533.34</i>	<i>15,230.41</i>
3.500.000	Little Lambs Fund Balance	403.27	9,395.30	12,642.20
3.600.000	Prayer Shawl Ministry Fund Balance	0.00	82.60	162.60
3.650.000	Quilters Ministry Fund Balance	0.00	670.48	0.00
3.700.000	Disaster Relief Fund Balance	0.00	220.91	120.00
3.750.000	Seminary Scholarship Fund Balance	0.00	5,770.00	N/A
3.995.000	<i>Inactive Accounts Fund Balance</i>			
3.150.000	Building Fund Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.160.000	Debt Reduction Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.310.000	Music Bells Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.320.000	Music - Hymnal	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.340.000	Bell Maintenance Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.410.000	Youth Summer Camp Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.420.000	Youth - KCK Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.990.000	Faith Item Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<i>Total Inactive Accounts Fund Balance</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2015

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Page 3 of 3

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Previous Year Balance
Total		\$1,580.05	\$40,319.48	\$52,997.21
Total Temporary Restricted Fund Balances		\$1,580.05	\$40,319.48	\$52,997.21
<i>Reserves</i>				
3.950.000	Inreach Reserves Fund Balance	550.00	2,701.13	2,397.93
3.960.000	Outreach Reserves Fund Balance	750.00	8,313.67	7,563.67
3.970.000	Bldg & Grounds Reserves Balance	6,000.00	29,508.14	23,508.14
3.972.000	Playground Maintenance Reserves Balance	0.00	5,000.00	N/A
3.975.000	Maintenance Reserves Balance	6,000.00	24,933.80	18,933.80
3.980.000	Equipment Reserves Balance	1,000.00	10,211.80	12,081.66
3.985.000	Sabbatical Reserves Balance	1,200.00	5,175.89	3,975.89
Total Reserves		\$15,500.00	\$85,844.43	\$68,461.09
<i>Permanently Restricted Funds</i>				
3.940.000	Endowment Fund Balance	245.00	10,692.00	5,030.00
Total Permanently Restricted Funds		\$245.00	\$10,692.00	\$5,030.00
3.130.000	Building & Grounds Equity	5,273.97	1,448,791.26	1,292,084.61
Total Equity		\$5,273.97	\$1,448,791.26	\$1,292,084.61
<i>Building Fund</i>				
3.125.000	Building Fund Balance	87,050.55	192,880.21	68,931.49
Total Building Fund		\$87,050.55	\$192,880.21	\$68,931.49
Total Fund Balances & Equity		\$98,192.85	\$1,837,759.96	\$1,531,890.21
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances & Equity		\$93,099.81	\$2,372,149.63	\$2,233,668.60

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 2015 for General Fund

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Page 1 of 4

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget
Income						
4.100.000	Member Contributions	47,802.66	43,750.00	531,875.49*	525,000.00	525,000.00
4.150.000	Loose Plate and Growth	2,796.47	2,087.00	24,385.02	25,000.00	25,000.00
4.200.000	Miscellaneous Income	19.00	87.00	112.15	1,000.00	1,000.00
4.250.000	Flower Income	28.00	212.00	2,651.75*	2,500.00	2,500.00
4.300.000	Interest Income (Heartland Bank)	25.24	13.00	228.41*	200.00	200.00
Total Income		\$50,671.37	\$46,149.00	\$559,252.82*	\$553,700.00	\$553,700.00
Expenses						
Mission Ministry						
5.100.110	ELCA NI Synod	4,375.00	4,375.00	52,500.00	52,500.00	52,500.00
5.100.111	Good Samaritan	0.00		0.00		
5.100.112	Local Mission	1,262.79	432.00	4,690.52	5,250.00	5,250.00
5.100.113	Mission Ministry - Other	0.00		0.00		
Mission Ministry		\$5,637.79	\$4,807.00	\$57,190.52	\$57,750.00	\$57,750.00
Outreach Ministry						
5.150.100	Outreach/Evangelism	0.00	337.00	3,339.31	4,000.00	4,000.00
5.150.150	Advertising	0.00	337.00	2,257.37	4,000.00	4,000.00
5.150.250	Outreach Ministry - Other	0.00	38.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
5.150.300	Lay Ministry Expenses	0.00	38.00	511.82*	500.00	500.00
Outreach Ministry		\$0.00	\$750.00	\$6,108.50	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
Adult Education Ministry						
5.200.000	Adult Ed Books/Reimbursements	0.00	100.00	1,136.80	1,200.00	1,200.00
5.200.300	Adult Ed Curriculum	0.00	13.00	36.14	200.00	200.00
5.200.350	Retreats Expenses	0.00	0.00	9.95	0.00	0.00
5.200.400	Adult Ed - Other	0.00	63.00	148.59	800.00	800.00
5.200.450	Home Devotional Guides	61.50	13.00	216.48*	200.00	200.00
Adult Education Ministry		\$61.50	\$189.00	\$1,547.96	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
Youth and Education Ministry						
5.250.100	Youth Resources	79.83	125.00	1,990.76*	1,500.00	1,500.00
5.250.150	Youth Curriculum	0.00	87.00	209.95	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.250.200	Trip Expenses	0.00	87.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.250.250	Youth Retreats Expense	0.00	87.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.250.275	Software/Subscriptions	134.15	150.00	2,513.07*	1,800.00	1,800.00
5.250.280	Confirmation Expenses	0.00	288.00	4,251.05*	3,500.00	3,500.00
5.250.285	Sunday School Expenses	786.89	125.00	1,954.31*	1,500.00	1,500.00

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Treasurer's Report as of December 2015 for General Fund

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Page 2 of 4

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget
5.250.290	VBS Expenses	0.00	250.00	2,725.42	3,000.00	3,000.00
5.250.300	Other Youth Expenses	0.00	87.00	539.30	1,000.00	1,000.00
	Youth and Education Ministry	\$1,000.87	\$1,286.00	\$14,183.86	\$15,300.00	\$15,300.00
Music Ministry						
5.300.100	Choral Expenses	203.29	112.00	1,898.74*	1,300.00	1,300.00
5.300.150	2nd Service Music	0.00		0.00		
5.300.160	Saturday Service Organist	0.00		0.00		
5.300.161	Organ/Piano Supply	0.00	19.00	275.00*	250.00	250.00
5.300.175	Bells Expenses	146.01	100.00	1,580.95*	1,200.00	1,200.00
5.300.200	Childrens Music Ministry Expense	0.00		0.00		
5.300.300	Adult Choir Music	0.00		0.00		
5.300.350	Band Expenses	185.39	337.00	4,471.53*	4,000.00	4,000.00
5.300.375	Youth Bell Choir	0.00		0.00		
5.300.400	Piano/Organ Maintenance	85.00	59.00	596.40	700.00	700.00
5.300.450	Bell Maintenance	0.00	19.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
5.300.500	Licensing Fees	0.00	57.00	735.00	750.00	750.00
5.300.550	Music Resources Expenses	0.00	25.00	224.59	300.00	300.00
	Music Ministry	\$619.69	\$728.00	\$9,782.21*	\$8,750.00	\$8,750.00
Worship Ministry						
5.350.100	Audio Visual Ministry	0.00	125.00	1,812.11*	1,500.00	1,500.00
5.350.150	Flowers	476.91	212.00	2,231.91	2,500.00	2,500.00
5.350.200	Altar Guild	73.59	38.00	621.39*	500.00	500.00
5.350.250	Pastoral Assistance	200.00	125.00	900.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
5.350.300	Worship Supplies	247.49	57.00	1,069.40*	750.00	750.00
5.350.350	Misc. Worship Expenses	0.00		360.60		
	Worship Ministry	\$997.99	\$557.00	\$6,995.41*	\$6,750.00	\$6,750.00
Facilities						
5.400.100	Cleaning Service	590.00	628.00	7,030.00	7,580.00	7,580.00
5.400.150	Utilities	832.69	837.00	9,659.20	10,000.00	10,000.00
5.400.200	Waste Removal	168.56	138.00	2,480.87*	1,700.00	1,700.00
5.400.250	Lawn care/Snow removal	2,250.00	875.00	12,121.00*	10,500.00	10,500.00
5.400.300	Maint./Cleaning Supplies	0.00	57.00	524.25	750.00	750.00
5.400.350	Outside Contract Services	1,957.98	388.00	5,509.65*	4,700.00	4,700.00
5.400.400	Misc. Facilities expense	535.37	25.00	1,399.48*	300.00	300.00
	Facilities	\$6,334.60	\$2,948.00	\$38,724.45*	\$35,530.00	\$35,530.00

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Treasurer's Report as of December 2015 for General Fund

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Page 3 of 4

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget
Office Expenses						
5.450.100	Office Supplies	0.00	288.00	4,443.91*	3,500.00	3,500.00
5.450.150	Office Equipment	0.00	0.00	171.59	0.00	0.00
5.450.200	Web/Software Expenses	72.75	288.00	3,322.35	3,500.00	3,500.00
5.450.250	Telephone	0.00	163.00	2,071.73*	2,000.00	2,000.00
5.450.275	Wireless Phone	0.00	112.00	1,070.41	1,300.00	1,300.00
5.450.300	Postage	200.00	125.00	2,217.23*	1,500.00	1,500.00
5.450.350	Dues & Subscriptions	90.00	7.00	229.00*	150.00	150.00
5.450.400	Equipment Rental	1,230.77	1,337.00	16,133.64*	16,000.00	16,000.00
5.450.450	Misc. Office Expenses	0.00	19.00	129.72	250.00	250.00
	Office Expenses	\$1,593.52	\$2,339.00	\$29,789.58*	\$28,200.00	\$28,200.00
Staffing Ministry						
5.500.100	Pastor Salary	4,740.20	4,648.00	56,666.66*	55,787.00	55,787.00
5.500.150	Pastor Housing Allowance	2,666.74	2,740.00	32,000.00	32,880.00	32,880.00
5.500.200	Lay Ministry Coord.	1,673.76	1,671.00	20,036.36	20,085.00	20,085.00
5.500.250	Youth Ministry Coord.	3,214.96	3,209.00	38,485.88	38,486.00	38,486.00
5.500.300	Director of Music	3,161.08	3,158.00	37,840.88	37,841.00	37,841.00
5.500.350	Organist	1,601.30	1,604.00	18,675.20	19,215.00	19,215.00
5.500.400	Tech. Support Manager	2,218.33	2,224.00	26,675.06	26,721.00	26,721.00
5.500.450	Office Manager	1,231.88	1,154.00	13,905.85*	13,892.00	13,892.00
5.500.500	Director of Adult Education	1,972.68	2,980.00	24,631.56	35,782.00	35,782.00
5.500.525	AV Coordinator	618.00	611.00	7,398.00	7,398.00	7,398.00
5.500.550	Continuing Education/Training	24.99	500.00	3,996.81	6,000.00	6,000.00
5.500.600	Staff Social Security	1,136.60	1,435.00	13,589.05	17,286.00	17,286.00
5.500.650	Pastor SS/Ins/Retirement	3,935.32	3,932.00	47,181.94	47,250.00	47,250.00
5.500.655	Staff Payroll Deductions	0.00		0.00		
5.500.675	Payroll Processing Expense	747.41	187.00	3,064.72*	2,200.00	2,200.00
5.500.700	Misc. Staff expenses	0.00	163.00	549.98	2,000.00	2,000.00
5.500.750	Pastor's Con't Ed.	0.00		0.00		
	Staffing Ministry	\$28,943.25	\$30,216.00	\$344,697.95	\$362,823.00	\$362,823.00
Other Church Expenses						
5.550.100	Scholarships	0.00		0.00		
5.550.110	Kitchen Supplies	0.00	87.00	591.98	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.550.125	Church Events Expense	100.00	38.00	(35.91)	500.00	500.00
5.550.150	Committee Expenses	0.00	250.00	1,727.40	3,000.00	3,000.00

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Treasurer's Report as of December 2015 for General Fund

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Page 4 of 4

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget
5.550.175	Synod Assembly Expense	0.00	87.00	222.03	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.550.200	Church Insurance	640.01	687.00	7,233.67	8,222.00	8,222.00
5.550.250	Automobile Expense	383.38	413.00	4,664.22	5,000.00	5,000.00
5.550.300	Human Resources	0.00	462.00	4,651.58	5,500.00	5,500.00
5.550.350	Bank/Legal Expenses	28.15	63.00	505.69	800.00	800.00
5.550.351	Stock Sale Costs	37.34		37.34		
5.550.400	Misc. Expenses	250.00	12.00	287.61*	100.00	100.00
	Other Church Expenses	\$1,438.88	\$2,099.00	\$19,885.61	\$25,122.00	\$25,122.00
<i>Providing for the Future</i>						
5.600.100	Provision for Outreach	750.00	57.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
5.600.150	Provision for Inreach	550.00	44.00	550.00	550.00	550.00
5.600.200	Provision for Equipment	1,000.00	87.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.600.250	Provision for Maintenance	6,000.00	500.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
5.600.300	Provision for Bldg. & Grounds	6,000.00	500.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
5.600.350	Provision for Sabbatical	1,200.00	100.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
	Providing for the Future	\$15,500.00	\$1,288.00	\$15,500.00	\$15,500.00	\$15,500.00
	Total Expenses	\$62,128.09	\$47,207.00	\$544,406.05	\$567,125.00	\$567,125.00
	Difference	(\$11,456.72)	(\$1,058.00)	\$14,846.77	(\$13,425.00)	(\$13,425.00)

* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2015

Monday, January 4, 2016

Page 1 of 12

Account # Account Name Current Activity YTD Activity

3.125.000 Building Fund Balance

Beginning Fund Balance 105,829.66 68,931.49

Income

4.127.000	Church Group Donations	0.00	0.00
4.128.000	Memorial Donations to Building Fund	0.00	1,100.00
4.160.000	Debt Reduction Donations	1,100.00	33,906.75
4.310.000	Building Fund Donations	14,898.20	185,685.06
4.315.000	Forward in Faith Donations	87,909.45	141,040.90
4.700.000	Mission Plus Interest Income	40.53	370.16

Total Income \$103,948.18 \$362,102.87

Expenses

5.125.000	Loan Principal Payments	4,173.97	121,115.80
5.126.000	Loan Interest Payments	1,329.03	18,459.20
5.127.000	Loan Principal only Payments	1,100.00	35,590.85
5.130.000	Capital Campaign Expenses	5,142.00	44,901.45
5.132.000	Architectural Expenses	5,152.63	18,086.85
5.134.000	Construction Manager Expenses	0.00	0.00
5.136.000	Other Phase II Costs	0.00	0.00

Total Expenses \$16,897.63 \$238,154.15

Ending Fund Balance \$192,880.21 \$192,880.21

3.170.000 Special Services Fund Balance

Beginning Fund Balance 2,650.00 1,650.00

Income

4.170.000	Special Services Donations	4,494.00	14,740.19
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Total Income \$4,494.00 \$14,740.19

Expenses

5.170.000	Special Services Expense	5,701.00	14,947.19
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Total Expenses \$5,701.00 \$14,947.19

Ending Fund Balance \$1,443.00 \$1,443.00

3.175.000 Memorial Fund Balance

Beginning Fund Balance 2,235.00 1,100.00

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2015

Monday, January 4, 2016

Page 2 of 12

Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
Income			
4.175.000	Memorial Donations	1,930.00	4,165.00
	Total Income	<u>\$1,930.00</u>	<u>\$4,165.00</u>
Expenses			
5.175.000	Memorial Expense	1,040.00	2,140.00
	Total Expenses	<u>\$1,040.00</u>	<u>\$2,140.00</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$3,125.00	\$3,125.00
3.180.000	Grafton Food Pantry Fund Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	1,941.00	725.00
Income			
4.190.000	Grafton Food Pantry Donations	190.00	2,868.00
	Total Income	<u>\$190.00</u>	<u>\$2,868.00</u>
Expenses			
5.190.000	Grafton Food Pantry Expense	1,941.00	3,403.00
	Total Expenses	<u>\$1,941.00</u>	<u>\$3,403.00</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$190.00	\$190.00
3.200.000	Heifer Fund Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	711.00	1,105.74
Income			
4.350.000	Heifer Income	5.45	135.71
	Total Income	<u>\$5.45</u>	<u>\$135.71</u>
Expenses			
5.630.000	Heifer Expense	(500.00)	25.00
	Total Expenses	<u>(\$500.00)</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$1,216.45	\$1,216.45
3.210.000	Grant Fund Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	0.00	255.00

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2015

Monday, January 4, 2016

Page 3 of 12

Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
Income			
4.210.000	Grant Fund Donations	0.00	0.00
	Total Income	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Expenses			
5.210.000	Grant Fund Expenses	0.00	255.00
	Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$255.00</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.220.000	AV Ministry Fund Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	(95.79)	1,496.33
Income			
4.220.000	AV Ministry Fund Donations	0.00	0.00
	Total Income	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Expenses			
5.220.000	Av Ministry Fund Expenses	157.92	1,750.04
	Total Expenses	<u>\$157.92</u>	<u>\$1,750.04</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	(\$253.71)	(\$253.71)
3.250.000	Good Samaritan Fund Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	2,557.04	3,437.67
Income			
4.325.000	Good Samaritan Donations	700.00	1,030.00
	Total Income	<u>\$700.00</u>	<u>\$1,030.00</u>
Expenses			
5.625.000	Good Samaritan Expense	500.00	1,710.63
	Total Expenses	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$1,710.63</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$2,757.04	\$2,757.04
3.260.000	Eyangelism/Outreach Fund Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	1,213.01	6,912.77

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2015

Monday, January 4, 2016

Page 4 of 12

Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
Income			
4.260.000	Evangelism/outreach donations	87.00	1,780.20
	Total Income	<u>\$87.00</u>	<u>\$1,780.20</u>
Expenses			
Outreach Ministry			
5.260.000	Evangelism/Outreach expense	0.00	7,392.96
	Outreach Ministry	0.00	7,392.96
	Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$7,392.96</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$1,300.01	\$1,300.01
3.300.000	Music Ministry Fund Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	3,728.74	2,566.63
3.330.000	Adult Music Ministry Fund Balance		
	Beginning Sub Fund Balance	2,257.63	1,812.63
Income			
4.330.000	Adult Music Ministry Donations	1,437.00	1,882.00
	Total Income	<u>\$1,437.00</u>	<u>\$1,882.00</u>
Expenses			
5.330.000	Adult Music Ministry Expense	0.00	0.00
	Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Sub Fund Balance	\$3,694.63	\$3,694.63
3.335.000	Bells Ministry Fund Balance Balance		
	Beginning Sub Fund Balance	717.11	0.00
Income			
4.410.000	Bells Music Ministry Donations	250.00	2,459.00
	Total Income	<u>\$250.00</u>	<u>\$2,459.00</u>
Expenses			
5.410.000	Bells Music Ministry Expense	0.00	1,491.89
	Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$1,491.89</u>
	Ending Sub Fund Balance	\$967.11	\$967.11
3.345.000	Childrens Music Ministry Fund Balance		

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2015

Monday, January 4, 2016

Page 5 of 12

Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
Beginning Sub Fund Balance		754.00	754.00
<i>Income</i>			
4.345.000	Childrens Music Ministry Donations	0.00	0.00
Total Income		\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.345.000	Childrens Music Minstry Expense	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending Sub Fund Balance		\$754.00	\$754.00
Ending Fund Balance		\$5,415.74	\$5,415.74
3.350.000 Prairie Crafters Fund Balance			
Beginning Fund Balance		784.00	691.00
<i>Income</i>			
4.355.000	Prairie Crafters Income	578.25	10,981.20
Total Income		<u>\$578.25</u>	<u>\$10,981.20</u>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.355.000	Prairie Crafters Expense	0.00	10,309.95
Total Expenses		<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$10,309.95</u>
Ending Fund Balance		\$1,362.25	\$1,362.25
3.360.000 Miscellaneous Fund Balance			
Beginning Fund Balance		1,827.06	3,919.57
<i>Income</i>			
4.360.000	Miscellaneous Fund Income	0.00	6,640.50
Total Income		<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$6,640.50</u>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.360.000	Miscellaneous Fund Expense	0.00	8,733.01
Total Expenses		<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$8,733.01</u>
Ending Fund Balance		\$1,827.06	\$1,827.06
3.370.000 WELCA Fund Balance			
Beginning Fund Balance		264.01	982.29

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2015

Monday, January 4, 2016

Page 6 of 12

Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
Income			
4.370.000	WELCA Income	0.00	0.00
	Total Income	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Expenses			
5.370.000	WELCA Expenses	0.00	718.28
	Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$718.28</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$264.01	\$264.01
3.400.000	Youth Ministry Fund Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	5,188.34	15,230.41
3.415.000	Youth Ministry Balance		
	Beginning Sub Fund Balance	2,736.13	2,546.43
Income			
4.415.100	Youth Ministry Income	100.00	613.70
	Total Income	\$100.00	\$613.70
Expenses			
5.415.100	Youth Ministry Expense	0.00	324.00
	Total Expenses	\$0.00	\$324.00
	Ending Sub Fund Balance	\$2,836.13	\$2,836.13
3.417.000	Youth Mission Trips Balance		
	Beginning Sub Fund Balance	(9.02)	2,656.72
Income			
4.417.000	Youth Mission Trips Income	0.00	28,352.03
	Total Income	\$0.00	\$28,352.03
Expenses			
5.417.000	Youth Mission Trips Expense	0.00	31,017.77
	Total Expenses	\$0.00	\$31,017.77
	Ending Sub Fund Balance	(\$9.02)	(\$9.02)
3.421.000	Youth Scholarship Balance		
	Beginning Sub Fund Balance	2,453.00	2,453.00
Income			

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2015

Monday, January 4, 2016

Page 7 of 12

Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
4.421.000	Youth Scholarship Income	0.00	0.00
	Total Income	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<i>Expenses</i>		
5.421.000	Youth Scholarship Expense	0.00	0.00
	Total Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ending Sub Fund Balance	\$2,453.00	\$2,453.00
3.422.000	Operation Christmas Child Balance		
	Beginning Sub Fund Balance	331.76	166.76
	<i>Income</i>		
4.418.000	Operation Christmas Child Income	50.00	1,149.75
	Total Income	\$50.00	\$1,149.75
	<i>Expenses</i>		
5.518.000	Operation Christmas Child Expense	0.00	934.75
	Total Expenses	\$0.00	\$934.75
	Ending Sub Fund Balance	\$381.76	\$381.76
3.423.000	Confirmation Retreat Fund Balance		
	Beginning Sub Fund Balance	(323.53)	838.47
	<i>Income</i>		
4.423.000	Confirmation Retreat Income	195.00	6,428.00
	Total Income	\$195.00	\$6,428.00
	<i>Expenses</i>		
5.423.000	Confirmation Retreat Expense	0.00	7,395.00
	Total Expenses	\$0.00	\$7,395.00
	Ending Sub Fund Balance	(\$128.53)	(\$128.53)
3.424.000	Gift Card Program Fund Balance		
	Beginning Sub Fund Balance	0.00	6,569.03
	<i>Income</i>		
4.424.000	Gift Card Program Income	0.00	0.00
	Total Income	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<i>Expenses</i>		
5.424.000	Gift Card Program Expense	0.00	6,569.03

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2015

Monday, January 4, 2016

Page 8 of 12

Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
Total Expenses		\$0.00	\$6,569.03
Ending Sub Fund Balance		\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending Fund Balance		\$5,533.34	\$5,533.34
3.500.000 Little Lambs Fund Balance			
Beginning Fund Balance		8,992.03	12,642.20
<i>Income</i>			
4.500.100	Little Lambs Tuition	1,300.00	10,596.25
4.500.200	Little Lambs Scholarships	0.00	0.00
Total Income		<u>\$1,300.00</u>	<u>\$10,596.25</u>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.700.100	Little Lambs Salary	896.73	8,404.82
5.700.110	Little Lambs Expenses	0.00	5,438.33
Total Expenses		<u>\$896.73</u>	<u>\$13,843.15</u>
Ending Fund Balance		\$9,395.30	\$9,395.30
3.600.000 Prayer Shawl Ministry Fund Balance			
Beginning Fund Balance		82.60	162.60
<i>Income</i>			
4.600.000	Prayer Shawl Ministry Donations	0.00	70.00
Total Income		<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$70.00</u>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.600.010	Prayer Shawl Ministry Expense	0.00	150.00
Total Expenses		<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>
Ending Fund Balance		\$82.60	\$82.60
3.650.000 Quilters Ministry Fund Balance			
Beginning Fund Balance		670.48	0.00
<i>Income</i>			
4.650.000	Quilters Income & Donations	0.00	867.00
Total Income		<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$867.00</u>

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2015

Monday, January 4, 2016

Page 9 of 12

Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
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<i>Expenses</i>			
5.650.000	Quilters Expenses	0.00	196.52
	Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$196.52</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$670.48	\$670.48
3.700.000	Disaster Relief Fund Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	220.91	120.00
<i>Income</i>			
4.710.000	Disaster Relief	0.00	1,655.00
	Total Income	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$1,655.00</u>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.710.000	Disaster Relief Fund	0.00	1,554.09
	Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$1,554.09</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$220.91	\$220.91
3.750.000	Seminary Scholarship Fund Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	5,770.00	0.00
<i>Income</i>			
4.750.000	Seminary Scholarship Donations	0.00	5,770.00
	Total Income	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$5,770.00</u>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.750.000	Seminary Scholarship Expenses	0.00	0.00
	Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$5,770.00	\$5,770.00
3.940.000	Endowment Fund Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	10,447.00	5,030.00
<i>Income</i>			
4.940.000	Endowment Income	245.00	5,662.00
	Total Income	<u>\$245.00</u>	<u>\$5,662.00</u>

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2015

Monday, January 4, 2016

Page 10 of 12

Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
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<i>Expenses</i>			
5.940.000	Endowment Expense	0.00	0.00
	Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$10,692.00	\$10,692.00
3.950.000	Inreach Reserves Fund Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	2,151.13	2,397.93
<i>Income</i>			
4.950.000	Inreach Reserves Income	550.00	550.00
	Total Income	<u>\$550.00</u>	<u>\$550.00</u>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.950.000	Inreach Reserves Expense	0.00	246.80
	Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$246.80</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$2,701.13	\$2,701.13
3.960.000	Outreach Reserves Fund Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	7,563.67	7,563.67
<i>Income</i>			
4.960.000	Outreach Reserves Income	750.00	750.00
	Total Income	<u>\$750.00</u>	<u>\$750.00</u>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.960.000	Outreach Reserves Expense	0.00	0.00
	Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$8,313.67	\$8,313.67
3.970.000	Bldg & Grounds Reserves Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	23,508.14	23,508.14
<i>Income</i>			
4.970.000	Bldg & Grounds Reserves Income	6,000.00	6,000.00
	Total Income	<u>\$6,000.00</u>	<u>\$6,000.00</u>

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2015

Monday, January 4, 2016

Page 11 of 12

Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
Expenses			
5.970.000	Bldg & Grounds Reserves Expense	0.00	0.00
	Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$29,508.14	\$29,508.14
3.972.000	Playground Maintenance Reserves Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	5,000.00	0.00
Income			
4.972.000	Playground Maintenance Reserves Income	0.00	5,000.00
	Total Income	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
Expenses			
5.972.000	Playground Maintenance Reserves Expense	0.00	0.00
	Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
3.975.000	Maintenance Reserves Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	18,933.80	18,933.80
Income			
4.975.000	Maintenance Reserves Income	6,000.00	6,000.00
	Total Income	<u>\$6,000.00</u>	<u>\$6,000.00</u>
Expenses			
5.975.000	Maintenance Reserves Expense	0.00	0.00
	Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$24,933.80	\$24,933.80
3.980.000	Equipment Reserves Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	9,211.80	12,081.66
Income			
4.980.000	Equipment Reserves Income	1,000.00	1,000.00
	Total Income	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>

Financial Reports (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie - Huntley IL Detailed Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2015

Monday, January 4, 2016

Page 12 of 12

Account #	Account Name	Current Activity	YTD Activity
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<i>Expenses</i>			
5.980.000	Equipment Reserves Expense	0.00	2,869.86
	Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$2,869.86</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$10,211.80	\$10,211.80
3.985.000	Sabbatical Reserves Balance		
	Beginning Fund Balance	3,975.89	3,975.89
<i>Income</i>			
4.985.000	Sabbatical Reserves Income	1,200.00	1,200.00
	Total Income	<u>\$1,200.00</u>	<u>\$1,200.00</u>
<i>Expenses</i>			
5.985.000	Sabbatical Reserves Expense	0.00	0.00
	Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Fund Balance	\$5,175.89	\$5,175.89

2016 Ministry Reports

Youth & Family Ministries

GEMS

GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior) is a bible study/small group for 4th and 5th grade girls. We do a craft and lesson with them. This program has about nine girls this year. It is a good lead in to confirmation. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

—*Barb Pagano*

LITTLE LAMBS

Our Little Lambs Early Learning Program is in our 7th year, we can't believe how much we have grown!!! The children love playing on the new playground. Classes meet from 9:00 a.m. – 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 2016 school year in January. Children between the ages of 2 and 4 yrs. (by Sept. 1st) are accepted into our program. They do not need to be potty trained and do not need to be members of SOTP. Enrollment is limited, so, if you are interested in signing up your child, or, if you know someone who is, please contact us at littlelambs@sotpmail.com.

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

—*Jill Gillming, Jeni McCann*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

2015 was a very busy year in Sunday School. We still have over 100 students registered, not including visitors. This year we added a traditional Sunday School opening to our format. All students get together each morning to sing and pray together before heading off to receive the message of God's love. This year we participated in the "Forward in Faith" appeal by decorating the church with inspirational posters from our Festival of Posters and saving in our "Forward in Faith" banks. Our young people raised just over \$1400! We ended the year by hosting a special event called "A Night in Bethlehem". We took the church back in time to the represent what Bethlehem looked, felt and smelled like during the time of Jesus's birth. With the help of many fantastic volunteers, we were able to add a little of the Miracle of Jesus to the holidays of the 50-60 people who visited our town. We are looking forward to more events like this one in the year to come.

—*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

GRAFTON FOOD PANTRY

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.
—Matthew 25:35

On the first Sunday of every month (and often in between) we fill a van full of food and we donate cash to the Grafton food Pantry. This past year we have donated over \$3,600.00 to the pantry. Every dollar equals eight when we purchase food from the Illinois Food Bank. We are grateful for all you donate. THANK-YOU so very much.

—*Alice Hallett*

MISSION TEAM

The Mission Team works toward accomplishing the goals of the church's mission statement, which is "Caring for God's children of all ages by growing disciples who make disciples." Our goal is to identify mission opportunities which encourage and equip 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 the special offerings of Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Together, SOTP has shared over \$20,000. The various recipients are listed below.

We have also taken to heart the ELCA's mission, "GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS". We thank YOU, for your participation.

The **emboldened charities** below designate SOTP volunteer participation in addition to our financial support.

- Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
 - **Stubbs Family Tanzania Missionary Support**
 - ELCA World Hunger
 - ELCA Disaster Relief Fund
- Elgin Community Crisis Center
- **Exodus Welcome to America Packs**
- **Feed My Starving Children**
- **Grafton Food Pantry**
- **Green Tress Subsidized Housing**
- **Habitat for Humanity Fox Valley & ReStore**
- Habitat for Humanity –McHenry County (Huntley)
- **Home of the Sparrow**
- **Local Giving Tree**
- Lutheran Social Service of Illinois
 - **LSSI Behavioral Health Services of Elgin**
 - **LSSI Life Book Foster Care**
- Mc Henry County Jail Detainees
- **Northern Illinois Food Bank**
- **PADS**
- Pioneer Center for Human Services
- **Senior Care Volunteers**
- Transition Hospice of Huntley IL
- Turning Point

If you have any charity with which you work, please let the Mission Team know. We look forward to hearing about any and all additional areas of involvement.

The Mission Team Members: Mark Bittinger, Marlene Boehler, Jill Brown, Becky Hennessey, Carl Hupert, Steve Legel, Corrine Neukirch, Nancy Ottinger, Jules Pelka, Sid Sorensen, Sharon Stangle, and Mary Trodahl

—*Sandy Hupert*
Mission Team Chair

PRAIRIE CRAFTERS

“God’s Work - Our Hands.”

The Prairie Crafters had a wonderful year. We have made a large variety of new items as well as the former favorites. It has been exciting to try new ideas and sell at a variety of places as well as at our Christmas Bazaar.

It is exciting this year to have earned and turned in \$10,997.95. That brings our total over the years to \$88,733.05.

We have plans to continue making crafts and turning in all the money toward **Forward In Faith**. Come and join us on the first Thursday of each month to lend a hand and make new friends.

—*Alice Hallett*

PRAIRIE POINT QUILTERS

2015 was a very productive and successful year. A total of 163 quilts were completed. Again, a new high! Thanks go to the fine ladies of the quilters and the many fabric donations and 2-\$250 donations from Thrivent to offset the costs of battling. We have a remarkable group of ladies that really work hard and well together. Time was even taken to celebrate the 90th birthday of one of our members, June Kobler, at a luncheon enjoyed by all.

Because of restrictions on storage for all our quilts, two quilt dedication Sundays were held this year. The first was July 19th when a Quarters for Quilts campaign was also held. A total of \$335.00 was received from the congregation from the Quarters for Quilts campaign.

- 70 quilts were boxed and delivered for Lutheran World Relief
- 8 quilts went back to Tanzania with our missionaries, the Stubbs Family
- 2 quilts were donated to Exodus to help refugee families

The second quilt dedication was held on December 6th.

- 63 quilts were boxed and delivered for Lutheran World Relief
- 10 quilts went to Turning Point to help families
- 10 quilts went to Home of the Sparrow

Our many thanks go to Chris Trodahl and Ralph Wehnes for getting our quilts to Church of the Brethren in Elgin. We couldn’t have done it without them.

Our total income for the year was \$867.00

Our total expenses were \$196.52

Starting January, 2016, Nancy Morbeck and Donna Sorenson will be co-chairing the Quilting Ministry.

Nancy Morbeck,
Chair Prairie Point Quilters

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) 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

"It is comforting to think that we may be of help in ways that we don't even realize."

—Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D.

That is what the Prayer Shawl Ministry is all about. We meet the second Thursday of each month to knit, crochet, and share ideas and patterns. You don't know how????? We are happy to teach you. Come and join us.

This year we gave out 190 Prayer Shawls and 12 Baptismal Blankets. We are grateful to Thrivent and all who have donated yarn or money to purchase yarn this year.

—*Alice Hallett and Jeanne Henley*

Worship Ministries

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

I would like to extend huge thank you to the many individuals that assist with weekly and special services at SOTP. Please review their individual reports below.

—*Pat Fiorese*

Team Lead

Seasonal Decorators

Many times during the year – Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving, All Saints Day, Christmas – you see special decorations around our Worship area. I would like to thank the following individuals for volunteering their time:

Kari Arndt	Melissa Juergensen	Barb Pagano
Judie Symbal	Sandy Scalise	Doreen Drinan

We would like to thank the members/visitors of SOTP for generously purchasing lilies for the Easter Season and poinsettias for the Christmas Season. It is your gift of flowers that allow the decorators to enhance our Worship area with God's beauty.

Would you like to join this group? We are always looking for additional volunteers. Please contact Donna Kelly or any Worship Ministry Team member.

Submitted by:

—*Pat Fiorese*

AUDIO-VISUAL

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

Our Audio Visual Ministry continues to operate well, with few issues occurring. Typically, any hiccups in presentation or operation are remedied immediately.

Our continued use of our video mixer provides seamless transitions between lyrics, and live video shots.

We have added a 2nd PC to capture services to enable us to more reliably capture video and produce it to our website for people to view when not able to attend services. Currently working on capturing consistent audio levels.

- 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, Brian Ott, Jack Ott, Chris Swanson, 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 service. Guild members are trained in proper etiquette for set-up and take-down and cleaning of all the vessels. The Altar Guild has a budget each year. Supplies are purchased as needed - wine grape juice, gluten-free wafers, new robes for the assisting ministers and any new paraments or supplies as needed.

Membership in the Altar Guild is open to all members of SOTP. We would love to encourage all women and men to be a part of our membership.

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

Respectfully submitted

—*Judie Symbal*
Chairperson

COMMUNION BREAD BAKING

Volunteers prepared Communion Bread for each worship service in 2015. The recipe used makes eight individual loaves. Saturday bakers prepare bread for three consecutive Saturday evening services as each Saturday service uses only two loaves. On Sundays, one baker will prepare the bread for both services. If additional bread is required, the remaining two Saturday loaves are used during the Sunday service.

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

Thank you ALL

—*Pat Fiorese*

COMMUNION FROM THE ASSEMBLY

Communion from the Assembly is doing well. As of this date we have five single people who serve communion and five couples. A lot of the couples go south in the winter but the others are always willing to serve. At this time we only have four communicants, but that could change any time. Should we find that we are lacking in servers we may want to consider a new class but as of now I don't see that is necessary. I send personal e-mails and phone calls to the team and they are very good at keeping in touch.

—*Sharon Neubauer*

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 and 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*

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

After Pastor Mark, our greeters are the first smiling face each congregation member and guests see as they are welcomed into our Saturday and Sunday services. It is a gratifying ministry and those on our greeter list are always eager to serve. Our Sunday greeter list is extensive enough that each member might be called every other month or so. However, our Saturday greeter list is small and further dwindles during the winter months when our snow birds are gone, so new greeters would be most welcomed.

Respectfully Submitted,

—*Dolly Cardascio*

USHERS

It's hard to believe that 2015 has come to an end. We had a good year, and I want to thank all of the ushers for a job well done. If you know anyone who would like to join the ushers, we have openings for the 10:45 a.m. service. Special thanks to Becky Tuzik for the great job of coordinating the Saturday services.

Once again, I want to thank all of the men and women who volunteered their time and talents.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Ferdie Kimminau*

Usher coordinator

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 inspirit 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

SOTP MUSIC MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2015

CHERUB CHOIR (AGES 3-6) —ANNETTE BOSTER, DIRECTOR

We have several children registered in the Cherub choir this year. They range in age from 2-6, with the majority being in the 3-4 year old range! This is a delightful group of children, who enjoy singing and bring great joy to our services with their musical offerings!

BLESSINGS CHOIR —MICHAEL WAAL, DIRECTOR

The Blessing's Choir continues to be a real joy in my work at SOTP. We currently have 10 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 in December, 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.

YOUTH BAND

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 4th Sunday of the month and are a joy to participate in worship with. and leading worship! In September we lost our 2 leaders as they went off to college, thanks Tyler and Chad for the great leadership you provided!! We have added several new members and are working hard to continue to serve with excellence.

THE JUBILATE RINGERS (BEGINNING HANDBELLS) —DENISE JAMES, DIRECTOR

This is a group of children in grades 3rd -5^{th/6th}, with 16 children playing in the group. We focus on learning proper bell ringer techniques and learning to follow music. We will continue to work on proper technique and learning new rhythms and hone our music reading skills. These young ringers have provided several musical offerings in church throughout the year.

THE JOY RINGERS (BEGINNING CHIMES) —DENISE JAMES AND BRITTNEY JAMES

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. The Joy Ringers will continue to work on improving technique & will begin to read & follow music. This young group has accompanied the Cherub choir as well as simple offerings for our services.

JUBELLATION RINGERS (INTERMEDIATE BELLS, 6TH - 7TH GRADE) —JANE McMULLEN, DIRECTOR

This group has 12 ringers, with space for a few more. The Jubellation Ringers have provided musical offerings throughout the year, and have also accompanied our Blessings vocal choir on occasion. 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.

SPIRIT RINGERS (HANDBELL CHOIR YOUTH/HIGH SCHOOL BELLS) —JANE McMULLEN, DIRECTOR

Our Spirit ringers have provided many musical offerings throughout the year thru June, in worship and will continue to have a great role in our worship services our group. In September, with the loss of 4 seniors to college, we have joined forces with the adult bells as we transition slowly back to our own group. These ringers have done an excellent job in Adult bells!!

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. In December along with Spirit ringers we played 2 Christmas concerts with the Heartland Voices. On Christmas Eve, we combined Adult, Spirit and Jubellation Ringers for an arrangement of "What Child is This" for Bell choir and a separate chime choir, it was beautiful.

ADULT BEGINNING HANDBELLS

This group is for Adults who read music a bit or not at all. This small group continues to learn musical concepts as well as much fun and fellowship! We rehearse Monday nights at 6:30 to 7:05pm. 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 10:45 am 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 30 members in size. We welcomed 6 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 Treasures 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 —TAMMY UTEG

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!! In the fall Doreen Drinnan took over filing the choir music as well as Pat Fiorese filing bell music and any other task that needs to be done. Thank you Pat and Doreen!!

COOKIE WALK

In December, we sponsored our first and hopefully annual Music Ministry Christmas Cookie Walk. This event was very successful and we again, thank all those who so lovingly baked and brought their best Christmas cookies to sell.

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

BOWLING LEAGUE

The league is in its 5th 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 3rd 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 four people, and we bowl three 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 one 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

With the help of Carol Kalbas & Judy Symbal, our Ministry made 18 Confirmation and 12 Baptismal banners in 2015. Carol Spiller designed our Confirmation and First Communion cards which were sent to each participant.

Our Ministry also sends cards to those who are ill, grieving, baptized, new members and high school graduates.

Holiday cards were also sent to 15 servicemen in the Armed Forces this year. Thanks to those who keep us informed of their change of address.

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

FFAA (FUN FOR ALL AGES)

Fun For All Ages was responsible for three major social events in 2015. We organized five Lenten Soup Suppers where we had over 600 attend. August 16th was the annual church picnic where 125 adults and children came for great food and fellowship. November 25th was Piefest after the service and 125 folks enjoyed the pie and connecting with each other. I have an amazing committee of dedicated servers. They include Kathy Pizarro, Tracy McDuffee, Jodi Dowell and Neal & Shannon Mejdrich. 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 continue to work together so everyone at church can enjoy food and fellowship.

—*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 COMMITTEE

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 2015, 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. Communion from the Assembly occurs on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Currently there are 4 regular communicants whom are visited monthly and others that call for one-time visits. We have 10 who serve the communion, 5 are singles and 5 are couples. Another training class may need to be considered for spring of 2016.

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 headed by Athena Hart and Kasandra Graf and was implemented in January 2015.

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, party games, the Christmas story, and of course birthday cake and singing were enjoyed by many families.

The In Reach committee had an eventful year, supporting all of our ministries. 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,

—*Shannon Mejdrich*

InReach—“Birthday Party for Jesus” Report

On Sunday, December 6th the InReach Team held a Birthday Party for Jesus following the second service. It was planned like a real child’s birthday party right down to the party hats, games, crafts and birthday cake. The 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 guests 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. The children and their families enjoyed decorating party hats, and designing ornaments. The children also had a chance to play a few games including “Pin the Tail on the Donkey”, “Bozo Buckets” and “Pass the Present”. We ended the party by singing Happy Birthday to Jesus and sharing some delicious cake.

—*Shannon Mejdrich*

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men's Fellowship breakfast group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at Sammy's Bar & Grill, located on Rt. 47, north of Main St. All men are welcome to join us any time; it is a good way to meet some new people in a small group setting. We have no special topic of discussion, just food and fellowship, and enjoy the time together. New faces are always welcome at our table. So as we say goodbye to the old year and hello to the New Year, I hope to see you there.

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

Outreach Ministry Annual Report 2015

This year at the welcome center we counted 55 completed membership cards for 2015. Out of those 28 became members. Several of these cards have come in since our last New Member welcome and they may become members in February. Overall the Shepherd of the Prairie Outreach Ministry was more amply supported in 2015 but the ministry is currently in need of more planners and volunteers to support the events that SOTP participates in with the Huntley community.

In 2015 the Outreach Team organized the Shepherd of the Prairie booth at the Huntley Expo featuring a larger booth with a Carnival theme and a ring toss game which was well received. Our booth volunteers handed out prizes and information about the fellowship and ministries of our church. We created a new "Welcome" flyer that included an overview of the mission and ministry of Shepherd of the Prairie while also including Basic information of our location and worship days and times. This new flyer along with supplemental information about upcoming events at the church are currently being handed out at all of the events that the Outreach committee participates in within the Huntley community as well as events that are supported by other ministries at the church. With help from the members of SOTP, we assembled a float for the Huntley Memorial Day Parade. We presented each Outreach Team member and each parade participant with a white t-shirt. On the front of the shirt was our updated Shepherd of the Prairie logo and name and on the back of the shirt was our church mission statement. The shirts were a big hit and we will be ordering more shirts to be worn at our other community events. We all had a great time as we marched down Main Street. This year we featured a live bugler to sound taps at the end of the parade route to honor the veterans as well as the American Legion. We shared our love for Jesus by inviting the community to attend Vacation Bible School this summer. 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 the Huntley's Annual Fall Fest for the second time in 2015. This year we purchased two exhibitor booth spaces next to each other. At the SOTP Fall Fest booth the SOTP Crafters displayed and sold crafts for the church in one space and the Outreach team ran a Carnival style booth in the other space featuring football themed games including a quarterback toss which was very popular. Prizes were distributed featuring the Shepherd of the Prairie logo as well as information for booth visitors. The Fall Bazaar was also successful. We created a half sheet advertisement highlighting all of the upcoming events at SOTP. This half sheet advertisement along with a jar opener were offered to everyone that came for the bazaar. The Outreach committee will continue to work closely with the crafters and we will be helping with table and tent set up for craft shows to assist the Crafters in setting up their booths. We will supply the crafters with items promoting the church as well as half sheet advertisements for upcoming events that can be handed out during the craft shows. In 2016 we will be advertising some upcoming events in the Del Webb paper entitled The Day. The next big Outreach event will be in March when Huntley hosts the business expo. The committee will start recruiting for this event soon to make sure that the church booth is staffed with people. One of the items that we will consider buying in the near future will be New magnets that advertise The church worship times and give mention to Shepherd of the Prairie being in ELCA Lutheran Church. These magnets could be distributed through Huntley new resident totes as well as other events. We also had discussion on how to increase the wearing of name badges by the congregation. 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 and we were more successful at this in 2015. 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 neighbor to the Huntley Library and support their ongoing newspaper recycling project, the collection bins have been full and the library is receiving the maximum amount of money for each bin. This fundraiser supports many programs and activities sponsored by the library. We continue to 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. Members at church as well as members out in the community, please make an effort to greet guests and invite people to our church. Tell them to "come and see".

Thank you to all who have supported the SOTP Outreach Ministry.

—*Mike Yndestad*
Outreach Chairman

Property Ministries

The property team is responsible for the church buildings and grounds. This small group of dedicated and motivated individuals work behind the scenes to make sure that you have a safe, clean facility for meetings, weddings, etc. when you arrive for worship.

I would ask you to look around the building and grounds and think of the hundreds of issues that need to be addressed each and every day.

Please consider joining the Property Team ministry and help us maintain our beautiful worship home. We meet the second Monday of 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

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Memorial Fund Report 2015

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 2015 the church received memorials totaling \$4065.00 for Debt Reduction and Music Ministry.

The memorials were given in loving memory of the following:

Viola Wille	Richard Moore	Charles Tresp
Ron Barth	Joy Kruto	Esther Tabatt
*Lenny Johnson	Ken Grate	Don Wiek
Doralis Tipton	Gale Harter	Dorothea Grate
Dee Pedersen		

*Memorials for Lenny Johnson were designated for the Music Ministry

George & Louise Sebastian in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary

The new fair linen (altar cloth) was given by the Symbal and Clementi families in loving memory of Richard Symbal Sr.

—*Susan Wehnes*
for the **Memorial Committee**

MUTUAL MINISTRY

Mutual Ministry is a small group of people who meet regularly with the Pastor Mark to provide a safe and confidential environment for him to share new ideas, blessings and concerns he may have about his ministry at SOTP. This group also supports the pastor by making sure he has good work and family balance, he takes his vacation and is attending continuing education opportunities. Each year Mutual Ministry prepares and distributes a survey to the staff and the congregation on the pastor's performance which is used as a part of his annual performance evaluation. This group also helps Pastor Mark establish meaningful goals at the beginning of each year. Mutual Ministry members are also available to the congregation for feedback or concerns specifically about the pastor or his ministry.

After suspending meetings for approximately 6 months a new team was formed in June. One of the first things we did, was to send out an evaluation for Pastor Mark. This evaluation ensures he receives regular feedback from the congregation on how he is performing in his ministry. This year the results were very similar to years in the past:

Every member with an email address was sent a link to the “survey” and 1 person asked for a paper copy to complete.

76 responses out of 564 surveys sent were received (approx. 13.5%)

Average scores out of a 5 point scale:

- Preaching4.68
- Teaching4.78
- Pastoral Care.....4.80
- Leadership4.61
- Communication4.66
- Evangelism4.76
- Equipping.....4.58
- Interpersonal4.75
- Overall4.76

Comments were positive and constructive and the general feeling is Pastor Mark is doing a great job for us and the growth of our church.

We appreciate those who took the time to complete the evaluation and hope next year we receive a greater response.

The Mutual Ministry team is made up of four members and a Council Liaison. The current team members are Rob Deblieck, Cliff Dungey (Council Liaison), Jessica Panella (Chair), Kathy Pizarro and Charlie Powe.

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

Prayerfully submitted,

Jessica Panella

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Shepherd of the Prairie Human Resource team has had a busy 2015 with a lot of 'behind the scenes' business. In January of 2015 Shepherd of the Prairie and ADP started a partnership designed to bring Shepherd of the Prairie's employment practices in alignment with Federal, State & Local laws. We also wanted to be sure that all employees are properly, legally and ethically assured a workplace in compliance with those laws, rules and regulations. This task was undertaken to protect our employees, our management, our council, our church and our congregation. The goal was to lay the basis not only for our present staff, but for the staff to come as Shepherd of the Prairie will continue to grow in size and service to it's congregation and community.

This quest mandated the updating of job descriptions to comply with the necessary legal descriptions including duties & responsibilities along with other necessary changes. This was completed in June 2015. The rest of our task demanded the creation of a policy and procedure manual that, again, included and reflected Federal, State and Local regulations regarding rights, duties & benefits of employment. This was necessary, again, to protect our employees, our management, council and congregation. We worked closely with ADP, council, the Pastor and among ourselves. After several meetings, conference calls and rewrites to the original document, we completed the task in December of 2015.

My feeling is that with the help of the council and our partners at ADP, we have set a solid foundation for the growth of our staff and Shepherd of the Prairie for the foreseeable future. Our team's thanks to the council, Pastor Mark and the members of ADP for their help. Personally, I want to thank my amazing team for their time, hard work, patience and persistence in completing a task very important to Shepherd of the Prairie's future growth.

—*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, Ralph Bergstrom 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.

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. In 2015 we conducted a review of the church's insurance and requested proposals from three insurance companies. The result was that we made a change from Church Mutual to Guide One, saving us significant dollars in cost and improving our coverage.

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation and the staff's careful attention to controlling costs we ended 2015 with a surplus of over \$14,000. You will find the details in the Treasurer's Report enclosed within.

Respectfully,

Don Schneider

Chair, Finance Team

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Team: Kathy Dahl, Warren Brody, Darren Walloch, and Ralph Wehnes.
Council Liaison: Matt Greene

The Stewardship Committee met periodically throughout 2015. One of the things we concentrated on was reviewing and revitalizing the Endowment Fund at SOTPLC. The Church Council agreed to allow all Thrivent Choice Dollars to be deposited in the Endowment Fund account during 2015. We started the year with \$5,030.00 and \$6,414.00 was added from Thrivent Choice Dollars, so the total is \$11,444.00 at the end of 2015. We will now be making some revisions and working on increasing the account balance.

We are continually encouraging our members to consider using “Simply Giving” electronic transfer of their offering. We presently have 63 households using it.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help on our committee.

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 our contribution secretaries, Susie and Renae that post our offerings to the correct accounts.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Ralph Wehnes*

Stewardship Committee Chairman

2016 Nominating Committee Report

2015 NOMINATING TEAM MEMBERS

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

COUNCIL NOMINEES *(to be elected to serve a three year term ending January 2019)*

- Adam Adams – 2nd Three year term
- Amy Brittain – 2nd Three year term
- Bud Hanson – 1st Three year term

2016 NOMINATING COMMITTEE *(Outgoing council members, plus 3-4 additional)*

- Larry Newbanks
- Carol Legel
- Chuck Little
- Brigitte Pelka
- Donna Sorensen

AUDIT TEAM *(1 to be elected)*

- Bill Nesta

SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS *(1 female and 1 male to be elected, not from the same family) Synod Assembly to be held on June 17 and 18, 2016 at Augustana College, Rock Island, IL*

- Female – Jill Gillming
- Male – Brian Ott

CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS AND TERMS

Ending Term	1 Year Remaining In Term	2 Years Remaining In Term
Adam Adams (1)	Jim Henley (1)	Marlene Boehler (1)
Amy Britton (1)	Mike McCann (2)	Cliff Dungey (1)
Larry Newbanks (2)	Bob McDuffee (2)	Matt Greene (1)

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.

2016 Budget

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church 2016 Budget

Acct. No.	Account Name	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2016 Budget
Income				
4.100.000	Member Contributions ¹	525,000.00	531,875.49	546,600.00
4.150.000	Loose Plate & Growth	25,000.00	24,385.02	25,000.00
4.200.000	Miscellaneous Income	1,000.00	112.15	250.00
4.250.000	Flower Income	2,500.00	2,651.75	2,500.00
4.300.000	Interest Income	200.00	228.41	200.00
	Total Income	\$ 553,700.00	\$ 559,252.82	\$ 574,550.00
Expenses				
	Mission Ministry			
5.100.110	ELCA N. Illinois Synod ²	52,500.00	52,500.00	54,660.00
5.100.111	Good Samaritan	-	-	-
5.100.112	Local Mission ³	5,250.00	4,690.52	5,466.00
5.100.113	Mission Ministry - Other	-	-	-
	Total Misson Ministry	\$ 57,750.00	\$ 57,190.52	\$ 60,126.00
	Outreach Ministry			
5.150.100	Outreach/Evangelism	4,000.00	3,339.31	4,000.00
5.150.150	Advertising	4,000.00	2,257.37	2,500.00
5.150.250	Miscellaneous Outreach	500.00	-	-
5.150.300	Lay Ministry Expenses	500.00	511.82	500.00
	Total Outreach Ministry	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 6,108.50	\$ 7,000.00
	Adult Education Ministry			
5.200.000	Adult Ed Books/Reimbursement	1,200.00	1,136.80	1,200.00
5.200.300	Adult Ed Curriculum	200.00	36.14	200.00
5.200.350	Retreat Expense	-	9.95	100.00
5.200.400	Other Adult Education	800.00	148.59	-
5.200.450	Home Devotional Guides	200.00	216.48	200.00
	Total Adult Education	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,547.96	\$ 1,700.00

2016 Budget (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church 2016 Budget

Acct. No.	Account Name	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2016 Budget
	Youth Education Ministry			
5.250.100	Youth Resources	1,500.00	1,990.76	1,500.00
5.250.150	Youth Curriculum	1,000.00	209.95	800.00
5.250.200	Youth Trip Expenses	1,000.00	-	-
5.250.250	Youth Retreats Expense	1,000.00	-	-
5.250.275	Software/ Subscriptions	1,800.00	2,513.07	2,500.00
5.250.280	Confirmation Expenses	3,500.00	4,251.05	3,500.00
5.250.285	Sunday School Expenses	1,500.00	1,954.31	1,500.00
5.250.290	VBS Expenses	3,000.00	2,725.42	3,000.00
5.250.300	Other Youth Expenses	1,000.00	539.30	1,000.00
	Total Youth Education	\$ 15,300.00	\$ 14,183.86	\$ 13,800.00
	Music Ministry			
5.300.100	Choral Expenses	1,300.00	1,898.74	1,300.00
5.300.161	Organ/Piano Supply	250.00	275.00	300.00
5.300.175	Bells Expenses	1,200.00	1,580.95	1,300.00
5.300.350	Band Expenses	4,000.00	4,471.53	4,000.00
5.300.400	Piano/Organ Maintenance	700.00	596.40	700.00
5.300.450	Bell Maintenance	250.00	-	300.00
5.300.500	Licensing Fees	750.00	735.00	850.00
5.300.550	Music Resources Expense	300.00	224.59	350.00
	Total Music Ministry	\$ 8,750.00	\$ 9,782.21	\$ 9,100.00
	Worship Ministry			
5.350.100	Audio Visual Ministry	1,500.00	1,812.11	1,500.00
5.350.150	Flowers	2,500.00	2,231.91	2,000.00
5.350.200	Altar Guild	500.00	621.39	700.00
5.350.250	Pastoral Assistance	1,500.00	900.00	1,500.00
5.350.300	Worship Supplies	750.00	1,069.40	750.00
5.350.350	Misc. Worship Expense	-	360.60	500.00
	Total Worship Ministry	\$ 6,750.00	\$ 6,995.41	\$ 6,950.00

2016 Budget (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church 2016 Budget

Acct. No.	Account Name	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2016 Budget
	Facilities			
5.400.100	Cleaning Services	7,580.00	7,030.00	8,220.00
5.400.150	Utilities	12,000.00	9,659.20	10,515.00
5.400.200	Waste Removal	1,700.00	2,480.87	3,000.00
5.400.250	Grounds Maintenance ⁴	10,500.00	12,121.00	8,300.00
5.400.255	Snow Removal ⁴	-	-	5,000.00
5.400.300	Maint./Cleaning Supplies	750.00	524.25	700.00
5.400.350	Contract Services	4,700.00	5,509.65	5,890.00
5.400.400	Misc. Facilities Expens	300.00	1,399.48	2,750.00
	Total Facilities	\$ 37,530.00	\$ 38,724.45	\$ 44,375.00
	Office Expenses			
5.450.100	Office Supplies	3,500.00	4,443.91	3,000.00
5.450.150	Office Equipment	-	171.59	1,000.00
5.450.200	Web/Software Expense	3,500.00	3,322.35	4,500.00
5.450.250	Telephone	2,000.00	2,071.73	2,000.00
5.450.275	Wireless Phone	1,300.00	1,070.41	1,300.00
5.450.300	Postage	1,500.00	2,217.23	1,500.00
5.450.350	Dues & Subscriptions	150.00	229.00	150.00
5.450.400	Equipment Rental	16,000.00	16,133.64	17,600.00
5.450.450	Misc. Office Expense	250.00	129.72	250.00
	Total Office Expense	\$ 28,200.00	\$ 29,789.58	\$ 31,300.00
	Staffing Ministry⁵			
5.500.100	Pastor Salary	55,786.59	56,666.66	59,326.00
5.500.150	Pastor Housing allowance	32,879.92	32,000.00	32,000.00
5.500.200	Lay Ministry Coordinator	20,085.00	20,036.36	20,637.00
5.500.250	Youth Ministry Coordinator	38,485.88	38,485.88	39,640.00
5.500.300	Director of Music	37,840.77	37,840.88	38,976.00
5.500.350	Organist	19,215.00	18,675.20	19,744.00
5.500.400	Technical Support Manager	26,721.00	26,675.06	27,532.00
5.500.450	Office Manager/ AP Admin.	13,891.72	13,905.85	14,310.00
5.500.500	Director of Adult Education	35,781.91	24,631.56	25,229.00
5.500.525	Audio Visual Coordinator	7,398.00	7,398.00	7,619.00
5.500.550	Staff Training/Continuing Ed.	6,000.00	3,996.81	6,000.00
5.500.600	Staff Social Security	17,286.00	13,589.05	14,817.00
5.500.650	Pastor Insurance & Soc. Sec.	47,250.00	47,181.94	49,867.00
5.500.675	ADP Payroll/HR Services	2,200.00	3,064.72	6,500.00
5.500.700	Misc. Staff Expense	2,000.00	549.98	1,000.00
5.500.725	Staffing for Growth ⁶	-	-	4,222.00
	Total Staffing Ministry	\$ 362,821.79	\$ 344,697.95	\$ 367,419.00

2016 Budget (cont)

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church 2016 Budget

Acct. No.	Account Name	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2016 Budget
	Other Church Expenses			
5.550.100	Scholarships	-	-	-
5.550.110	Kitchen Supplies	1,000.00	591.98	1,000.00
5.550.125	Church Events Expense	500.00	(35.91)	-
5.550.150	Committee Expenses	3,000.00	1,727.40	2,000.00
5.550.200	Church Insurance	8,222.00	7,233.67	7,680.00
5.550.250	Automobile Expense	5,000.00	4,664.22	5,000.00
5.550.300	Human Resources	5,500.00	4,651.58	500.00
5.550.350	Bank/Legal Expenses	800.00	505.69	500.00
5.550.175	Synod Assembly Expense	1,000.00	222.03	500.00
5.550.400	Misc. Expenses	100.00	287.61	100.00
	Total Other Expenses	\$ 25,122.00	\$ 19,848.27	\$ 17,280.00
	Providing for the Future			
5.600.100	Provision for Outreach	750.00	750.00	750.00
5.600.150	Provision for Inreach	550.00	550.00	550.00
5.600.200	Provision for Equipment	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.600.250	Provision for Maintenance	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
5.600.300	Provision for Bldg. & Grounds	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
5.600.350	Provision for Sabatical	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
	Total Future Provisions	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,500.00
	Total Expenses	\$ 569,123.79	\$ 544,368.71	\$ 574,550.00
	Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (15,423.79)	\$ 14,884.11	\$ -

1. Member Contributions are calculated based on pledges received and historical giving patterns. The projected increase for 2016 is 2.8% of 2015 contributions.

2. ELCA Northern Illinois Synod Mission is 10% of member contributions.

3. Local Mission is 1% of member contributions. This does not include special offerings.

4. Snow Removal and Grounds Maintenance have been separated on the 2016 budget to allow better monitoring of these two expense items.

5. Staffing Ministry Expenses reflect a 3% increase to all salaries.

6. We have added a Staffing for Growth line item for future ministry opportunities.